HISTORY OF SOUTH DAKOTA WING
CIVIL AIR PATROL
Official Auxiliary of the United States Air Force

1 January 2015 – 31 December 2015

NARRATIVE
HISTORY
of
SOUTH DAKOTA WING
CIVIL AIR PATROL

Official Auxiliary of the United States Air Force

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South Dakota Wing Headquarters
Rapid City Regional Airport
South Dakota
South Dakota Wing
Wing Headquarters – Rapid City (Pennington County)

Squadron Locations

1. Brookings    Big Sioux Composite Squadron
2. Custer       Crazy Horse Composite Squadron
3. Pierre       Pierre Composite Squadron
4. Rapid City   Rushmore Composite Squadron and Wing Headquarters
5. Sioux Falls  Sioux Falls Composite Squadron
6. Spearfish    Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron

Figure 1. Location of South Dakota Wing Units
TABLE OF CONTENTS

VOLUME I - NARRATIVE
   Title Page ........................................................................................................... i
   Frontispiece ....................................................................................................... ii
   Table of Contents............................................................................................ iii
   List of Illustrations ......................................................................................... iv
   Chronology ....................................................................................................... x

   CHAPTER I  INTRODUCTION ........................................................................... 1
   CHAPTER II EMERGENCY SERVICES .......................................................... 2
   CHAPTER III AEROSPACE EDUCATION ..................................................... 18
   CHAPTER IV CADET PROGRAMS ............................................................... 31
   CHAPTER V CADET ORIENTATION FLIGHTS .......................................... 53
   CHAPTER VI OTHER NOTABLE EVENTS ..................................................... 58

   LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS ......................................................... 89

VOLUME II - SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS
## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 –</td>
<td>Location of South Dakota Wing Units</td>
<td>ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 –</td>
<td>Two aircrew members plan for their flight</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 –</td>
<td>Cadet Ground Team member trains with new radio-detection-finding equipment</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 –</td>
<td>Cadet Radio Ops maintain contact with aircraft and ground teams</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 –</td>
<td>G1000 VFR class at Rushmore Composite Squadron</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 –</td>
<td>Victims of a terrible accident</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 –</td>
<td>Turn-about is fair play</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 –</td>
<td>Pierre SAREX Incident command staff</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 –</td>
<td>Pierre SAREX Ground Team operations room</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 –</td>
<td>Pierre SAREX Flightline</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 –</td>
<td>Command Liaison: Larson, Dravland, Seten</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 –</td>
<td>Command Liaison: Seten, Titze, Steele</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 –</td>
<td>Corson grain elevator fire</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 –</td>
<td>Delmont’s newly built fire hall</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 –</td>
<td>Delmont Lutheran Church</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 –</td>
<td>Custer SAREX flightline</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 –</td>
<td>Custer SAREX Incident command center</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 –</td>
<td>Custer SAREX Cadet barracks</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 –</td>
<td>Custer SAREX West River Ground team arriving</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 –</td>
<td>Custer SAREX West River Ground team briefing</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 –</td>
<td>Maj Filler/Capt Schmid prepare to fly the airborne repeater mission</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 –</td>
<td>Lt Hinkhouse, Cadets Holmberg and Ortega, Lt Col Huntington and Capt Gabert</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 –</td>
<td>SM Shawd in his very well equipped “radio shack”</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 –</td>
<td>Cadets lay out signal panels</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 –</td>
<td>Cadets rearrange signal panels</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 –</td>
<td>Spidertracks showing the CAP aircraft search pattern</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 –</td>
<td>Emergency responder ground search vehicles and boat trailers</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 –</td>
<td>Extent of the search area</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 –</td>
<td>Search boat checks snags and sand bars for the body of the missing swimmer</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 –</td>
<td>Split SAREX Incident command post at Wing Headquarters</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 –</td>
<td>Split SAREX West River ground team plans their search mission near Pactola Lake</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32 –</td>
<td>Split SAREX Air National Guard pilot “Bob” who ejected was located alive and well</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33 –</td>
<td>Mountain Fury Spidertracks of mission sorties flown in and around Custer</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
34 – Mountain Fury pilots Jones/Hall, Rushmore Composite Squadron, prepare for flight
35 – SDWG Cessna-172 (GlassHawk) first mission
36 – Cadets at Rushmore Composite Squadron survival training class
37 – C/SMSgt Gregory and Lt Col Christensen discuss operation of one of the RDF units
38 – C/SMSgt Gregory and C/SrA Hall compare the two RDF models
39 – Pierre SAREX incident command post staff in action
40 – Pierre SAREX incident command post staff between missions
41 – Lookout Mountain composite Squadron Ground team members plan a mission
42 – Starlab inflatable planetarium night sky display
43 – Sioux Falls Composite Squadron hosts the Starlab inflatable planetarium
44 – Yeager Award ribbon
45 – Cessna-172 model airplane kit
46 – Boy Scout aviation merit badge
47 – Boy Scout aviation merit badge candidates
48 – Pierre Composite Squadron Operation Joint Effort
49 – Sioux Falls Air National Guard Base Tour
50 – F-16 afterburner after dark
51 – Congresswoman Noem helps judge Operation Joint Effort aircraft
52 – CAP’s National Blue Beret contingent at AirVenture 2015
53 – Horace Mann School student enjoys a flight simulation program
54 – Horace Mann School students receive an aircraft briefing
55 – SDWG’s static display at Ellsworth AFB Open House
56 – Visitors tour a SDWG aircraft
57 – Visitors to the CAP table learn about SDWG
58 – USAF Thunderbirds perform at the Ellsworth AFB airshow
59 – Crazy Horse Composite Squadron cadets meet two Thunderbird pilots
60 – Sioux Falls Composite Squadron members visit Anoka Fly-In
61 – Sioux Falls Composite Squadrons members pose with a WWII Warbird
62 – Custer Composite Squadron members with the AE Certificates
63 – Sioux Falls Composite Squadron members fly to Mankato
64 – Sioux Falls Composite Squadron crew heading to Mankato
65 – CAP glider in tow at Mankato
66 – CAP Glider comes in for landing
67 – View from the glider cockpit
68 – Preflight glider checks
69 – New Sioux Falls Composite Squadron Aerospace Education Officer
70 – “Team Big Sioux” cadet cybersecurity specialists relax after a grueling session
71 – Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron change of Cadet Command Ceremony 32
72 - Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron Character Development Course 32
73 – Rushmore Composite Squadron Cadet Fire Fighter 33
74 – Rushmore Composite Squadron Commander fights training fire 33
75 - Team Big Sioux at CyberPatriot-VII Awards ceremony 34
76 – Crazy Horse Composite Squadron CPR Course 35
77 – Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron Color Guard 35
78 – C/Lt Parry and First Sergeant Marsich 36
79 – C/Lt Parry and MSgt McCormick 36
80 – C/Capt Schneider receives award from Col Lair 36
81 – C/MSgt Steven Diaconu receives award from Col Lair 37
82 – Crazy Horse Composite Squadron Color Guard at Elkton 38
83 – Lt. Col. Keith Collins Memorial Service 39
84 – Lt. Col. Keith Collins Memorial Service Right Honor Cordon 39
85 – Lt. Col. Keith Collins Memorial Service Left Honor Cordon 39
86 – Logo of the 2015 Joint NDWG/SDWG Encampment 40
87 – Joint Dakotas Encampment SDWG Col. Seten speaks with staff 40
88 – Joint Dakotas Encampment SDWG Lt. Col. Larson speaks with attendees 40
89 – Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron Color Guard 41
90 – Lookout Mountain composite Squadron Ground Team 41
91 – Sioux Falls Composite Squadron cadets lay signal panels 41
92 – Sioux Falls Composite Squadron cadets rearrange signal panels 41
93 – Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron change of cadet command 42
94 – Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron guidon surrender 42
95 – Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron acceptance 42
96 – Harris receives Mitchell Award 42
97 – Sioux Falls Composite Squadron Cadet Change of Command Ceremony 42
98 – Huntington VFW NCO of the Year 43
99 – VFW NCO of the Year Certificate 43
100 – Nash VFW Officer of the Year 43
101 – VFW Officer of the Year Certificate 43
102 – Wing Great Start Class 44
103 – Wing Great Start First Formation 44
104 – Wing Great Start O-Rides 44
105 – Sioux Falls Composite Squadron Color Guard 44
106 – Rushmore Composite Squadron Survival Training 45
107 – Team Big Sioux CyberPatriot-VIII Practice 46
108 – Team Big Sioux CyberPatriot-VIII Round Two
109 – Crazy Horse Composite Squadron Color Guard
110 – Crazy Horse Composite Squadron Color Guard in Action
111 – Crazy Horse Composite Squadron seeking WAA Donations
112 – Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron Ground Team Works a Mission
113 – Rushmore Composite Squadron seeks WAA Donations
114 – Rushmore Composite Squadron on Local TV seeking WAA Donations
115 – Two CAP Members in reflective vests walk next to a vehicle during the parade
116 – Team Big Sioux ponders a security vulnerability problem
117 – Team Big Sioux resolves a cyber issue
118 – Big Sioux Composite Squadron Color Guard at WAA Event
119 – Crazy Horse Composite Squadron float in Custer’s Parade of Lights
120 – Crazy Horse Composite Squadron at WAA Ceremony
121 – Rushmore Composite Squadron at WAA Ceremony
122 – Rushmore Composite Squadron cadet honors fallen veteran
123 – Sioux Falls Composite Squadron at WAA Ceremony
124 – Sioux Falls Composite Squadron Honors veterans of all services
125 – Lt Col Lair congratulates C/Maj West following check ride in a CAP Cessna-172
126 – Capt Neil Schmid and Cadets Oscar Holmberg and Chris Schuppan
127 – Cadets Anthony Dillon, Thomas Dillon, Hunter Rice and Ethan Updike
128 – Cadets Keri Bentley and Ana Mckeehan after their first o-ride
129 – Sioux Falls Composite Squadron o-ride crews
130 – Capt Neil Schmid with C/Lt Nick Nash at the controls
131 – CAP glider and CAP tow plane going aloft
132 – CAP Glider coming in for a landing
133 – View from the CAP glider cockpit
134 – Preflight check on the CAP glider
135 – “Team Big Sioux” cybersecurity specialists relax after a grueling session
136 – Captured bobcat awaits attachment of a radio tracking collar
137 – Mr. Tycz holds bobcat before attaching a radio tracking collar
138 - Two aircrew members plan for their flight
139 - Cadet ground team member trains with new radio-detection-finding equipment
140 - Cadet radio operators maintain contact with aircraft and ground teams
141 - SD Governor poses with SDWG contingent on Rotunda staircase
142 – Team Big Sioux at CyberPatriot-VII National Awards Ceremony
143 – Pierre SAREX Mission Base staff in action
144 – Pierre SAREX Ground Team Operations Center
145 – Pierre SAREX Flightline
146 – Colonel Seten on SDPB-TV
147 – Chaplain (Lt Col) Rae on SDPB-TV
148 – Captain Schmid on SDPB-TV
149 – Corson out-of-control burn
150 – Crazy Horse Composite Squadron members at Custer Trade Show
151 – Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron booth at Spearfish Home Show
152 – Sioux Falls Composite Squadron Kingswood contingent
153 – Kingswood activity briefing and packet handout
154 - Col (CAP Lt Col) Lair (right) is congratulated after landing
155 – Gen Vazquez in Sioux Falls with attendees
156 – Gen Vazquez in Sioux Falls speaks to attendees
157 – U.S. Rep. Noem presents CGM to Chaplain Rae to honor his father
160 – CAP Cadet Peter Iverson receives the BSA Eagle Scout Award
161 – Wreckage of Delmont’s newly built fire hall
162 – Wreckage of Delmont Lutheran Church
163 – Custer SAREX Flightline
164 – Custer SAREX Mission Base Operations
165 – Custer SAREX cadet barracks
166 – Custer SAREX Ground Team Arrives
167 – Custer SAREX Ground Team mission briefing
168 – Constant Watch Preparation for High Bird Flight
169 – Constant Watch Mission Base Radio Room
170 – SM Shawd in his Radio Shack during ConstantWatch 2015
171 – AJROTC FOP-1 Flight
172 – U.S. Sen. Rounds presents posthumous CAP CGM to son of Vernon Jeffries
173 – Capt Schmid, Observer Maj Filler and Scanner Lt Many Steele
174 – A LLRS in Northeastern Nebraska discovered a message, possibly for UFOs
175 – Mickelson Trail Marathon main support table
176 – Mickelson Trail Marathon aid to runners
177 – St. Joseph Indian School students sit in a CAP aircraft
178 – Lt Col Christensen presents a briefing to students
179 – SDWG members at KRAP Open House
180 – SDWG aircraft on static display at KRAP Open House
181 – LLRS survey area map
182 – Mountain lion with a radio-telemetry collar
183 – Spidertracks showing the cap aircraft search pattern
184 – Vehicles/boat trailers of Union County Sheriff and State Game Fish and Parks
185 – Extent of the REDCAP search area
186 – Search boat (center left) checks snags and sand bars for missing swimmer
187 – West River Incident command post at wing headquarters
188 – West River ground team plans their search mission near Pactola Lake
189 – CAP static display at Ellsworth AFB Airshow
190 – Newly refurbished SDWG Cessna-172
191 – SDWG Cessna-172’s digital avionics suite
192 – Portion of the CAP Exhibit at the Canton Public Library
193 – Another portion of the CAP Exhibit at the Canton Public Library
194 – Photos and documents at the CAP Exhibit at the Canton Public Library
195 – Gov. Daugaard presents the CAP CGM to Pauline Brehe
196 – Gov. Daugaard presents the CAP CGM to Lois Schmidt
197 – CAP CGM recipients Lois Schmidt and Pauline Brehe
198 – Spidertracks showing training sorties in and around Custer, SD
199 – Lt Jones and Capt Hall prepare for their training flight
200 – Squadron members at Custer Courthouse CAP Exhibit grand opening
201 – Part of the Custer Courthouse CAP Exhibit
202 – Rank insignia portion of the Custer Court House CAP Exhibit
203 – Radio equipment portion of the Custer Courthouse CAP Exhibit
204 – Part of the Custer Courthouse CAP Exhibit
205 – Uniforms at the Custer Courthouse CAP Exhibit
206 – Pierre SAREX mission briefing
207 – Pierre SAREX Mission Base staff
208 – CAP Cadet Walter Wilson (in red box) in 1945
209 – Walter Wilson’s CAP ID Card dated 19 July 1945
210 – Walter’s widow, Shirley Wilson, accepted the medal on her husband's behalf
## SOUTH DAKOTA WING CHRONOLOGY 2015

### January

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>Mission #15-C-5673 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>AFRCC Mission #15-M-0016A Missing Person Search</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Mission #15-C-5673 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Mission #15-C-5673 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Sioux Falls Comp. Sqdn. Portable Planetarium Visit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Crazy Horse Comp. Sqdn. Wilderness Injuries/Rescue Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Wing G-1000 VFR Class (Rapid City, SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Mission #15-C-5673 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Lookout Mountain Comp. Sqdn. Change of Cadet Commander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Mission #15-C-5673 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24-26</td>
<td>Mission #15-T-5361 Split SAREX (Brookings, SD/Rapid City, SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Rushmore Comp. Sqdn. Fire Suppression Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Mission #15-C-5673 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Mission #15-C-5673 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Mission #15-A-5237 MX Pickup/Dropoff (Pierre, SD/Sioux City, IA)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### February

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Mission #15-C-6373 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>Mission #15-A-6083 Cadet Orientation Ride (Sioux Falls, SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Mission #15-C-6569 Wing Legislative Day (Pierre, SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Mission #15-C-6373 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Mission #15-C-6373 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-15</td>
<td>Mission #15-C-6585 Wing Cadet Leadership Academy (Pierre, SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Mission #15-C-6373 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Joint NDWG/SDWG Training Leaders of Cadets Crs. (Brookings, SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Mission #15-C-6373 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Mission #15-C-6373 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Mission #15-A-6083 Cadet Orientation Ride (Sioux Falls, SD)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Mission #15-C-6880 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>Mission #15-C-6880 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>SDWG Hosts BSA for Aviation Merit Badge (Rapid City, SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07-08</td>
<td>Crazy Horse Comp. Sqdn. (Custer, SD) At Custer Trade Show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07-08</td>
<td>Lookout Mountain Comp. Sqdn. At Black Hills Home Show/Health Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Team Big Sioux (Brookings, SD) at CyberPatriot-VII Nat’l Finals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Sioux Falls Comp. Sqdn. at Kingswood Rummage Sale Fundraiser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Rushmore Comp. Sqdn. (Rapid City) at Kiwanis Pancake Fundraiser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Mission #15-C-6880 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Sioux Falls Comp. Sqdn. tours Joe Foss Field (SD Air NG Base)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Mission #15-C-6880 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
20-22 Mission #15-T-6684 SAREX (Pierre, SD)
27 Mission #15-C-6880 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
28 Mission #15-1-7373 SUI (Brookings, SD)
29 SDWG on SDPB-TV (Sioux Falls Comp. Sqdn. (Sioux Falls, SD)
30 Mission #15-C-7453 SD OEM Familiarization Flights

April

01 Lookout Mountain Comp. Sqdn. gets grant from Optimist Club
06 AFRCC Mission #15-M-0154 ELT Search
07 Mission #15-C-7501 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
07 Sioux Falls Comp. Sqdn. at FAA Safety Conference in Sioux Falls
08 CGM Ceremony for Earl Wilkenson,
09 Mission #15-C-7501 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
11 Pierre Comp. Sqdn. supports American Legion monthly members’ meal
12 CAP National Commander visits Sioux Falls, SD
16 Mission #15-C-7501 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
17 Mission #15-C-7501 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
18-19 Wing Conference (Pierre, SD)
19 CGM Ceremony for John Gibson “Jack” Rae Jr. (Pierre, SD)
22 Mission #15-C-7501 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
23 Mission #15-C-7501 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
24 Pierre Comp. Sqdn. pilots go to FAA WINGS Program
28 Mission #15-C-7501 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
28 Mission #15-A-7484 AFJROTC Orientation Flight
29 Mission #15-C-7501 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills

May

02 Mission #15-A-8390 AFJROTC Orientation Flight
08 Mission #15-C-8833 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
09 Mission #15-A-8390 Cadet Orientation Flights (Sioux Falls, SD)
12 Delmont tornado damage assessment photo recon mission
15-16 Mission #15-T-8325 Constant Watch 2015 COMEX
17 Mission #15-A-8390 MX Pickup/Dropoff (Pierre, SD/Sioux City, IA)
18 Mission #15-C-8833 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
20 Mission #15-A-8390 MX Pickup/Dropoff (Pierre, SD/Sioux City, IA)
22 Mission #15-A-8390 MX Pickup/Dropoff (Pierre, SD/Sioux City, IA)
23 Mission #15-A-8390 Cadet Orientation Flights (Brookings, SD)
23 Crazy Horse & Rushmore Comp. Sqdns. help clean up Camp Volunteer
25 Pierre Comp. Sqdn. at Pierre city-wide Memorial Day event
26 Mission #15-C-8833 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
26 Mission #15-A-8390 AFJROTC Orientation Flight (Rapid City, SD)
28 Mission #15-C-8833 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
29 Wing/CC & Wing/CV at Sanford Health Emergency Management Conf.
29 Mission #15-C-9281 SUI (Pierre, SD)
29-31 Mission #15-T-8885 SAREX (Custer, SD)
June

01 Mission #15-1-8562A Low Level Route Survey for SD Air Nat’l Guard
01 20th Anniversary of Crazy Horse Comp. Sqdn. (Custer, SD)
06 Mission #15-C-9543 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
07 Mission #15-C-9543 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
07 Mission #15-1-8562A Low Level Route Survey for SD Air Nat’l Guard
07 Lookout Mountain Comp. Sqdn. supports Mickelson Trail Marathon
08 Mission #15-C-9543 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
08 Mission #15-A-8390 MX Pickup/Dropoff (Sioux Falls, SD/Huron, SD)
08 Lookout Mountain Comp. Sqdn. Honor Guard for Lt. Col. Collins burial
11 Mission #15-1-8562B Low Level Route Survey for SD Air Nat’l Guard
13 Wing SAV/CI at Sioux Falls Comp. Sqdn.
14 Crazy Horse Comp. Sqdn. helps Custer VFW at flag folding ceremony
15 Mission #15-1-8562A Low Level Route Survey for SD Air Nat’l Guard
15 Mission #15-C-9543 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
15 Pierre Comp. Sqdn. supports St. Joseph Indian School Field Day
16 Big Sioux Comp. Sqdn. at Elkton, SD Harvest Festival
17 Mission #15-1-8562A Low Level Route Survey for SD Air Nat’l Guard
20 Rapid City, Custer, Spearfish sqdns.at Rapid City Airport Open House
21 Mission #15-A-8390 MX Pickup/Dropoff (Sioux Falls, SD/Huron, SD)
22 Mission #15-1-8562A Low Level Route Survey for SD Air Nat’l Guard
22 Mission #15-C-9543 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
23 Mission #15-C-9543 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
24-29 Mission #15-1-8562B Low Level Route Survey for SD Air Nat’l Guard
29 CGM Ceremony for Vernon Jeffries (Rapid City, SD)
30 Mission #15-C-9543 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills

July

04 Lookout Mountain Comp. Sqdn. in Spearfish 4th July Parade
04 Sioux Falls Comp. Sqdn. at Sioux Falls Mayor’s 4th July Picnic
09 Mission #15-C-10518 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
07 Mission #15-1-8562B Low Level Route Survey for SD Air Nat’l Guard
10 Mission #15-C-10518 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
10-19 Joint Dakotas Encampment (Camp Rapid, SD)
11 Mission #15-1-8562B Low Level Route Survey for SD Air Nat’l Guard
13 Mission #15-C-10518 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
19 Sioux Falls Comp. Sqdn. cadet attends National Cadet Officers School
21 Horace Mann School students visit Sioux Falls Comp. Sqdn.
22 Mission #15-C-10518 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
23 Mission #15-C-10518 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
23 Mission #15-A-10319 MX Dropoff (Pierre, SD/Sioux City, IA)
24 Mission #15-1-8562B Low Level Route Survey for SD Air Nat’l Guard
24 Sioux Falls Comp. Sqdn. cadet at National Blue Beret (Oshkosh, WI)
25 Mission #15-1-8562B Low Level Route Survey for SD Air Nat’l Guard
27 Mission #15-1-8562B Low Level Route Survey for SD Air Nat’l Guard
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<td>Low Level Route Survey for SD Air Nat’l Guard</td>
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<td>Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills</td>
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<td>#15-A-10319</td>
<td>MX Pickup (Pierre, SD/Sioux City, IA)</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>#15-A-10319</td>
<td>Cadet Orientation Flight (Spearfish, SD)</td>
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**August**

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<td>Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills</td>
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<td>06</td>
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<td>Sioux Falls Comp. Sqdn. change of Cadet Commander Ceremony</td>
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<td>08</td>
<td>#15-C-11073</td>
<td>Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills</td>
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<tr>
<td>08-10</td>
<td>#15-A-10772</td>
<td>Cadet O-Rides (Rapid City &amp; Sioux Falls, SD)</td>
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<td>Mission #15-C-11073 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills</td>
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<td>Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>#15-A-10772</td>
<td>Cadet O-Ride (Rapid City, SD)</td>
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<td>15-16</td>
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<td>SDWG supports Ellsworth AFB Airshow (Rapid City, SD)</td>
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<td>AFRCC Mission #15-C-11483 Missing Person (Union County, SD)</td>
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<td>Lookout Mountain Comp. Sqdn. change of Cadet Commander Ceremony</td>
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<td>Lookout Mountain Comp. Sqdn. Billy Mitchell award presentation</td>
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<td>Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills</td>
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<td>21</td>
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<td>CAP/SDWG exhibit set up in public library in Canton, SD</td>
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<td>Sioux Falls Comp. Sqdn. attends AOPA Anoka Fly-In (Anoka, MN)</td>
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<td>Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills</td>
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<td>CGM Ceremony for Pauline Brehe (Pierre, SD)</td>
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<td>CGM Ceremony for Lois Schmidt (Pierre, SD)</td>
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<td>Low Level Route Survey for SD Air Nat'l Guard</td>
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<td>Cadet O-Rides (Spearfish, SD)</td>
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<td>28-30</td>
<td>#15-T-11340</td>
<td>Split SAREX (Sioux Falls, SD/Rapid City, SD)</td>
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<td>MX Pickup/Dropoff (Sioux Falls/St. Paul, MN)</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
<td>SDWG wins NCR Homeland Security/Counterdrug Mission Award</td>
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<td>SDWG officer wins CAP DDR Member of the Year for 2015</td>
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<td>Cadet O-Ride (Sioux Falls, SD)</td>
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<td>30-31</td>
<td>#15-A-10772</td>
<td>MX Crew (St. Paul, MN/Sioux Falls, SD)</td>
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<td>31</td>
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<td>Refurbished C-172 returned to SDWG.</td>
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**September**

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<td>Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills</td>
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<td>#15-A-11869</td>
<td>MX Pickup (Various Locations)</td>
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<td>04</td>
<td>#15-T-11850</td>
<td>SUI (Custer, SD)</td>
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<td>07</td>
<td>#15-C-11396</td>
<td>Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills</td>
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<td>#15-T-11851</td>
<td>Mountain Fury Flying Clinic (Custer, SD)</td>
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<td>Mountain Fury Flying Clinic (Custer, SD)</td>
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<td>Sioux Falls Comp. Sqdn. supports Sioux Falls Sidewalk Arts Festival</td>
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<td>Cadet Orientation Flights (Custer, SD)</td>
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13 Mission #15-A-11869 MX Pickup (Pierre, SD)
15 History, Genealogy, Heraldry sections added to Wing website
15-16 Mission #15-A-11869 MX Activities (Rapid City, Custer, Pierre, SD)
16 Mission #15-C-11396 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
17 Mission #15-C-11396 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
17 Mission #15-A-11869 Cadet Orientation Flights (Brookings, SD)
19 Big Sioux Comp. Sqn. supports Brookings Red Cross Prepare-a-Thon
22 Mission #15-A-11869 Cadet Orientation Flights (Brookings, SD)
24 Mission #15-C-11396 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
25 Crazy Horse Comp. Sqn. (Custer, SD) wins CAP AE Excellence Award
26 Mission #15-A-11869 Cadet O-Ride (Pierre, Rapid City, Brookings, SD)
26 SDWG Great Start Program at Rushmore Comp. Sqn. (Rapid City, SD)
26 Sioux Falls Comp. Sqn. Color Guard at Special Olympics Convoy
29 Mission #15-C-11396 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
30 Mission #15-C-11396 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills

October

01 Mission #16-C-3005 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
01 Sioux Falls Comp. Sqn. receives Bueckens Flight scholarship
01 Wing/CV retires from SD Air NG after 34 years military service
03 SDWG survival training at Rushmore Comp. Sqn. (Rapid City, SD)
04 Rushmore Comp. Sqn. supports Mickelson Trail Marathon
04 Sioux Falls Comp. Sqn. commander competes in Twin Cities Marathon
06 CAP/SDWG exhibit set up at Custer County Courthouse
07 Mission #16-C-3005 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
09 Mission #16-C-3005 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
10 Sioux Falls Comp. Sqn. Open House
13 Mission #16-C-3005 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
14 Mission #15-A-11869 MX Activities (Sioux Falls, SD/Sioux City, IA)
15 Big Sioux Comp. Sqn. (Brookings, SD) registers for CyberPatriot-VIII
15 Big Sioux Comp. Sqn. cadets attend MNWG Leadership Academy
16 Mission #16-C-3005 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
17 Mission #16-A-3114 Cadet O-Rides (Sioux Falls/Brookings, SD)
17 Sioux Falls Comp. Sqn. glider flying at Mankato, MN.
21 Mission #16-C-3005 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
30 Mission #16-C-3005 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
30 Mission #15-A-11869 MX Activities (Rapid City, SD/Pierre, SD)

November

03 Mission #16-C-3005 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
06 Mission #16-C-3005 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
06 New commander for Big Sioux Comp. Sqn. (Brookings, SD)
07 Mission #16-A-3114 Cadet Orientation Flights (Brookings, SD)
07 Mission #16-T-3559 SAREX (Pierre, SD)
10 Mission #16-A-3112 MX Activities (Various Locations/St. Paul, MN)
Crazy Horse Comp. Sqdn. Color Guard at Veterans Day ceremony
Sioux Falls Comp. Sqdn. Color Guard at Veterans Day ceremony
Mission #16-C-3005 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
Mission #16-C-3005 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
Mission #16-C-3005 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
Mission #16-C-3005 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
Mission #16-C-3005 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
Mission #16-C-3912 State Night Hunting Compliance Aerial Survey
Big Sioux Comp. Sqdn. in Wreaths Across America ceremony
Sioux Falls Comp. Sqdn. in Wreaths Across America ceremony
Crazy Horse Comp. Sqdn. in Wreaths Across America ceremony
Rushmore Comp. Sqdn. in Wreaths Across America ceremony
Mission #16-C-3005 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
Pierre Composite Sqdn. cadet receives flight scholarship
Mission #16-C-3005 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
CGM Ceremony for Walter Wilson
Mission #16-C-3005 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
Mission #16-C-3005 Aerial Wildlife Survey – Black Hills
Big Sioux Comp. Sqdn. competes in National Cadet Competition
NARRATIVE

CHAPTER I – INTRODUCTION

The South Dakota Wing completed its 74th year of service to the people of the State of South Dakota and to the United States of America.

South Dakota Wing Origin

The South Dakota Wing was established 1 December 1941 as “Wing 77” and placed under the Command of Lt. Col. Thomas B. Roberts, Jr. On 30 May 1955, Wing 77 was re-designated “Wing 40000”. In 1999, Wing 40000 was again re-designated as “SD001” the designation it bears today.¹ The wing is currently commanded by Col John N. Seten.

Wing Organization

The South Dakota Wing is organized into a Wing Headquarters located at Rapid City Regional Airport, Rapid City, SD and, currently, six subordinate units. The total combined active strength of the wing is about 300 Cadets and Senior Members. The wing also has a Legislative Squadron with over 30 members, approximately one-third of the state’s legislators.

Wing Status

The South Dakota Wing completed 2015 on a high note. It was an active year for the wing in providing emergency services responses to AFRCC-tasked missions (missing aircraft, missing persons and ELT searches), and county, state and federal tasking for disaster relief (flooding, tornadoes).

Aerospace Education had a substantial role in wing activity for 2015 featuring model rocketry, powered model aircraft and model gliders.

The wing’s Cadet Programs for 2015 were equally active with an encampment, leadership academies, competitions, participation in National Cadet Special Activities and regional academies and a lot of just plain fun activities.

2015 was also a year of community activity. Wing units supported and/or took part in numerous community events across the state. Color Guards were especially active in that respect. A great deal of support was provided to aviation related events, especially fly-ins. Greatly enhanced community awareness and public goodwill was generated by the wing’s appearance at and participation in these activities.

¹ Unpublished Monograph “The Birth and Growth of South Dakota Wing of the Civil Air Patrol” by Col. Lester W. Snyder, Jr., CAP. Revised, 1 January 2010. Electronic file held by the Wing Assistant Historian.
CHAPTER II – EMERGENCY SERVICES

JANUARY 2015

- **REDCAP**: AFRCC Mission 15-M-001 - Early on 10 January, the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Tyndall AFB, Florida notified the South Dakota Wing that the Lawrence County Office of Emergency Management requested CAP assistance in the search for a missing person in the rugged, heavily forested hills near Spearfish. A Rapid City-based Cessna-182T aircraft was used for the search. The aircrew consisted of Lt. Col. Gary Hewett (Mission Pilot), Capt. Joshua Hall (Mission Observer) and Maj. David Small, Jr. (Mission Scanner). The Incident Commander was J.D. Guigoe of Lawrence County OEM. Col. John Seten coordinated the CAP activity. The individual was found alive and all CAP assets were stood down.

- **SPLIT SAREX**: The Wing’s first exercise for 2015 was held Saturday, 24 January. The focus was on training aircrews, ground search teams and command staffs through realistic search and rescue scenarios that mirror CAP’s real-world activity. All five of the Wing’s aircraft, six vehicles and 75 officers and cadets took part in the training exercise.

In the West River area an Incident Command Post was set up at the headquarters of the Rushmore Composite Squadron on Ellsworth AFB. Three CAP aircraft flew search and rescue sorties from the squadron’s hangar at the Rapid City Regional airport. In addition, one ground search team operated from the squadron headquarters conducting independent but similar training exercises as the aircraft.

In the East River area, a Staging Base was set up at the headquarters of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron at the Brookings Airport. Big Sioux’s personnel were joined by aircraft, vehicles and personnel from the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron. Under the control of Incident Commander Col. Mike Beason at Ellsworth AFB two CAP aircraft and two ground teams conducted training exercises similar to those in the West River area.

The Split SAREX was a chance to work with Wing units that don’t often have the chance to train together. The benefit is teamwork, the coordination between command staff, aircrews and ground teams. A great deal of individual skills training was also accomplished.

Figure-2 – Two aircrew members plan for their flight
Figure-3 – Cadet Ground Team member trains with new radio-detection-finding equipment
Figure-4 – Cadet Radio Ops maintain contact with aircraft and ground teams
• **G1000 VFR CLASS:** On 17 January, six aviators took part in a G-1000 VFR training class hosted by Rushmore Composite Squadron and presented by Maj. Craig Goodrich and Lt. Col. Gary Hewett. The class spent most of the day at SDWG HQ exploring the functions and capabilities of the Cessna-182 “glass cockpit”. Present around the table were (clockwise) Lt. Col. Gary Hewett, Maj. Craig Goodrich (both CFI class instructors), SM Jack Jensen, Col. Mike Beason, Mr. Cliff Wippel, Lt. Col. Chuck Trumble and SM Tim Shannon, all members of Rushmore Composite Squadron. G-1000 equipped aircraft have tremendous potential for those properly trained to utilize it. Classes such as this are required for those who have never flown with it before and an important review for those of us who seldom see it. Classroom discussion is much cheaper than aviation gasoline. Article and photo submitted by Lt. Col. DeWeese

![Image](image1.png)

Figure-5 – G1000 VFR class at Rushmore Composite Squadron

• **WILDERNESS INJURY & RESCUE:** Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer hosted National Parks Service Paramedic Dan Fairchild from the Devils Tower National Monument to teach a class on wilderness injuries and rescue. It was amazing to learn how items you have in your backpack can be used to help someone. Who knew a sweatshirt had so many uses, and just think many of us thought the sleeves were only used as napkins.

![Image](image2.png)

Figure-6 – Victims of a terrible accident
Figure-7 – Turn-about is fair play
MARCH 2015

- **PIERRE SAREX**: SDWG conducted a Search and Rescue Exercise in Pierre 20-22 March. It focused on training aircrews, ground search teams and command staff to react to an emergency services situation. It tested their ability to plan, coordinate and conduct missions based on realistic training scenarios that mirror the CAP’s real-world activity. Four of the Wing’s aircraft, several vehicles and some 40 officers and cadets took part. A Mission Base was set up at the Mustang Aviation Facility at Pierre Regional Airport. The aircraft flew sorties searching for a simulated crashed aircraft crash (ELT search) and carried out a photo survey of ice jams on the Missouri River south of Pierre. Three Ground Search Teams conducted similar training exercises.

SAREXs such as this give participants the opportunity to work with other SDWG units that don’t often have the chance to train together with massed assets. For the Pierre SAREX there were participants from five squadrons present. In addition, there were two observers present from the CAP-USAF North Central Liaison Region, Lt. Col. Jeff Meyers and Mr. Greg Meyer, the Director and Assistant Director of Operations respectively. Lt. Col. Meyers complimented everyone for their training, communication and ability to self-critique at the after action review. The principal benefit of training such as this is teamwork; the coordination between command staff, aircrews and ground teams. In addition, a great deal of individual skills training was accomplished.

SDWG thanks Mustang Aviation of Pierre for use of their state of the art facility.

Figure-8 – Pierre SAREX Incident command staff
Figure-9 – Pierre SAREX Ground Team operations room

Figure-10 – Pierre SAREX Flightline
• **COMMAND LIAISON:** On 5 March, Col. Seten, Lt. Col. Larson and Lt. Manny Steele flew to Pierre to meet senior state officials. They spoke with Mr. Todd Dravland, Chief Engineer of the SD State Radio System on the status of radio repeaters and to express SDWG’s appreciation for the support we get from the state’s Bureau of Information and Telecommunications. They also met with Ms. Tina Titze, Director of the Office of Emergency Management, to discuss ways CAP could help with the upcoming motorcycle rally in Sturgis and other ways SDWG. Finally, they spoke with the Trudy Wastweet, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, on how SDWG may be able to assist them with wildland fire spotting and other possible missions. On 30 March, Col. Seten and Lt. Col. Larson returned to Pierre to meet Mr. Kelly Hepler, the new Secretary of Game, Fish and Parks and Mr. Lucas Lentsch, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture.

Figure-11 – Command Liaison: Larson, Dravland, Seten
Figure-12 – Command Liaison: Seten, Titze, Steele

• **CORSON OUT-OF-CONTROL BURN:** On 26 March, Col. Seten learned that what was supposed to have been a controlled burn of lumber from a dismantled grain elevator had gotten out of control and spread. Having decided to take photos of the fire from the air that SDWG would share with local responders he went to our hangar at the Sioux Falls airport and took one of the Wing’s aircraft aloft. On landing he uploaded the photos and made them available to the local media. In addition, he sent the photos to all of the fire chiefs in Minnehaha County along with a note about the services SDWG can provide and how to task us in the event of need.

Figure-13 – Corson grain elevator fire
A Sioux Falls based Cessna-182/G1000, with an aircrew of Mission Pilot Lt. Jerald Hayden, Capt. Karla West (MO) and SSgt. David Stockinger (MS), took off and began executing an expanding circle search pattern. Shortly after takeoff the aircraft’s radio-direction-finding sensor picked up the ELT’s signal. Through analysis the aircraft crew determined the signal was coming from vicinity of Larchwood, IA.

In addition to the aircraft, two ground search teams were dispatched: one from Sioux Falls under command of Capt. Karen Espeland with C/Lt Nicholas Nash, C/Capt Nicole Schneider and C/Maj Brandon West; the other from Brookings under command of Lt. Thomas Delany, with SM Josh Hartelt, C/Lt Col Joshua Klosterman and C/Lt Laura Rudnik.

The signal was pinpointed as coming from the Zangger Vintage Airpark which is about two miles east of Larchwood. The airpark manager was contacted and he stated that one of the aircraft there had experienced a hard landing that must have caused the beacon to activate. The airpark manager went to the aircraft and silenced the ELT.

With mission accomplished, the aircraft and ground teams returned to base shortly after midnight Monday morning. Lt. Col. Rick Larson was the Incident Commander.

**FAA WINGS PROGRAM:** Two Pierre Composite Squadron pilots, Lt. Col. Myra Christensen and Maj. Lee Vaughan, recently participated in the FAA WINGS Pilot Proficiency Program. They went to Rapid City to attend the program that is designed to increase safety in general aviation. Completion of this phase of WINGS satisfies the requirement for a flight review. Lt. Col. Jerry Densmore organized the Rapid City presentation.

**FAA SEMINAR:** The Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, representing CAP, set up a table and talked about what we do at a seminar on 7 April at the Main Terminal Conference Room of Sioux Falls Regional Airport. The event, the “2015 annual Pilot & Airport Evening User Meeting”, provided current information on runway safety and airspace operational concerns. In addition, attendees had the opportunity to meet with FAA personnel from the Air Traffic Control, Flight Standards and South Dakota FAA Air Safety Team. As it turned out the event was packed, standing room only. Capt. Jason Erickson led the CAP contingent playing host, mingling and shaking hands. Senior members in attendance were Capt. Kurt Johnson, Capt. Karla West, Capt. Jerry Zurovski, Lt. Dale Palmer and Capt. Joe Oye. The cadets; C/CMSgt Jaden Roblewsky, C/Lt Nicholas Nash, C/Amn Taylor Moyer and C/SSgt Kyle Clement did us proud as they always do, looking sharp.
- **SIOUX FALLS MINI-SAREX**: The Sioux Falls Composite Squadron held a mini-SAREX on 30 April. Exercise alert messages were issued by text and email for aircrew, ground teams and mission base personnel to assemble at the squadron headquarters. Two aircraft, two ground teams and 35 members participated as aircrew, ground search team members or mission base staff. In the first scenario the squadron’s Cessna-182, flew a “High Bird” mission to relay radio communications between mission base, the ground teams, and the Pierre squadron. In the second scenario the unit’s Cessna-172 flew an air search for persons stranded after a line of severe storms passed through the area. In the third scenario two ground search teams were dispatched to locate a missing turkey hunter. The unit’s Cessna-172 spotted the missing hunter and directed the ground search teams to the man’s location.

**MAY 2015**

- **DELMONT TORNADO**: On Sunday, 10 May, at 10:45 local time an EF-2 tornado with winds over 100mph roared through the small town of Delmont, located about 90 southwest of Sioux Falls. The town of about 200 lost all power, water and telephone service. 84 structures in and around Delmont were damaged or destroyed. Fortunately there were no fatalities, however at least nine people were injured and some livestock were killed. Hardest hit was the western edge of the town suffering the majority of the damage. The town’s new fire hall and a Lutheran Church bore the brunt of the tornado’s fury.

![Figure-14 – Delmont’s newly built fire hall](image1)

![Figure-15 – Delmont Lutheran Church](image2)

South Dakota Wing Commander Col. John Seten authorized a Sioux Falls-based Civil Air Patrol Cessna-182/G1000 aircraft to fly over the area and take photos of the damage. An aerial photo sortie over Delmont was conducted on 12 May. The aircrew was Mission Pilot Col. John Seten, Mission Observer Capt Neil Schmid, and Mission Scanner Capt. Karla West. Nearly 200 high resolution photos were taken and provided to emergency management officials, first responders and the media.

- **CUSTER SAREX**: Aircraft, vehicles and personnel from four SDWG’s squadrons and members and an aircraft from Nebraska Wing’s Pine Ridge Composite Squadron (Chadron, NE) gathered at the Custer County Airport for a Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) the weekend of 29-31 May. The goal of the exercise was to provide task-specific training for Civil Air Patrol
members. Short, realistic scenarios were presented to the aircrews, ground teams and mission base staff members to work through. Aircrews searched for simulated aircraft emergency locator beacons, rehearsed search patterns, and took simulated damage assessment photos. Ground team personnel also searched for simulated aircraft emergency locator beacons and worked with Custer County Search and Rescue during a missing person scenario in which CAP ground teams searched for an actor in a forested area near the Custer County Airport.

According to CAP Maj. Craig Goodrich, Incident Commander for the exercise, “Thunderstorms on Friday and fog on Saturday morning did not stop the show. The aircrews and ground teams were ready to go Saturday when the weather cleared and we got a lot of training done.”

Thanks to the generosity of the First Baptist Church of Custer, CAP members were able to use Camp Volunteer next to the airport over the weekend. The camp was also used as a staging area for the ground teams during the exercise. SDWG also thanks Custer County Search and Rescue for their participation in this SAREX.

Figure-16 – Custer SAREX flightline

Figure-17 – Custer SAREX Incident command center
Figure-18 – Custer SAREX Cadet barracks

Figure-19 – Custer SAREX West River Ground team arriving
Figure-20 – Custer SAREX West River Ground team briefing
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE: Wing Vice Commander Lt. Col. Rick Larson attended the 4th Annual Sanford Health Emergency Management Conference held in Sioux Falls May. The conference focused on trends in preparedness and response. Some of the topics covered were communications failures, rural disasters, and tornado events. A round table discussion on planning and response was held on the 29th.

CAP NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE: SDWG participated in the National Communications Exercise (COMEX) “Constant Watch 15” on 15 and 16 May. The exercise tests CAP’s ability to pass messages throughout the nation on high frequency (HF) radio. New this year was the relay of messages from HF stations to other units over very high frequency (VHF) radios. SDWG’s portion of the exercise was directed by Capt. Jerry Gabert, Wing Director of Communications.

The exercise began the afternoon of 15 May. Capt. Jerry Gabert and Lt. Rob Hinkhouse checked in on an HF radio in Sioux Falls. Lt. Todd Dravland checked in on his HF radio in Pierre. SM Jeff Shawd operated his HF radio in Valley Springs. He received several Whiskey Tango (numerically encoded) messages and entered them into the CAP computer system. Lt. Col. Dave Jefferies was on the HF radio in his vehicle and took Whiskey Tango messages while supporting Red Cross disaster relief efforts after the tornado in Delmont.

Capt. Gabert and Lt. Hinkhouse were also busy on Friday night planning messages to send on Saturday. They made up a practice coder/decoder and then formulated several coded messages.

Saturday morning the exercise expanded to include an airborne radio signal repeater. The airborne repeater was in a Sioux Falls Composite Squadron Cessna-182 piloted by Capt. Neil Schmid. Maj. Elliott Filler was Mission Observer. The purpose was three-fold: first, to test the range of the VHF airborne repeater. The aircraft made contact with participating squadrons along the flight route; second, to test inter-squadron VHF radio links; and, third, to send encoded Whisky Tango messages by VHF for relay by the long range HF stations. Through the repeater communications were established from Sioux Falls to Brookings, Brookings to Valley Springs, Valley Springs to Sioux Falls, and from Pierre to Delmont. Practice Whiskey Tango messages were sent between Sioux Falls, Brookings and Valley Springs. The messages were then deciphered by the receiving station and verified by the sending station.


Overall this was a very successful COMEX. Although thunderstorms hampered communications somewhat SDWG successfully checked in on the national HF net and passed traffic to or monitored traffic from all eight CAP USA regions, mostly from Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Idaho, Michigan and Washington Wings.
Thanks to all who participated. We hope to expand participation in Exercise Constant Watch exercise next year.

Figure-21 – Maj Filler/Capt Schmid prepare to fly the airborne repeater mission
Figure-22 – Lt Hinkhouse, Cadets Holmberg and Ortega, Lt Col Huntington and Capt Gabert

Figure-23 – SM Shawd in his very well equipped “radio shack”

- **EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING**: Crazy Horse Composite Squadron’s C/Lt Jason Parry taught an ES class on running a ground search. Some of the topics addressed included organization and operation of a telephone alert system, conducting a line search, marking a search route, and post mission individual refit. Not only did the cadets learn a great deal, they got to practice their newly learned skills between the rain drops.

- Congratulations to the following individuals who updated and/or completed various Emergency Services qualifications at the Custer SAREX 29-31 May 2015:
  - Maj Craig Goodrich – Updated IC3 and PSC
  - Lt. Andy Weathers – Completed Mission Observer
  - Capt. Doug Robbins – Completed Mission Scanner
  - Capt. Lisa Swanson – Completed Mission Observer
**JUNE 2015**

- **NEW WING TRANSPORT PILOT:** Congratulations to C/Maj Brandon West of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, the Wing’s newest Transport Mission Pilot (TMP)! To become a TMP, Cadet West had to accrue 100 hours as Pilot-in-Command and 50 cross country flight hours. As a TMP, he will be able to transport senior members to conferences, meetings, and SAREX’s and be able to fly the airborne repeater missions.

**JULY 2015**

- **EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING:** On 23 July, several cadets of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron trained on ground-to-air signals. The cadets laid out the various colored panels used to communicate information from a ground search team to a CAP aircraft overhead. In the left photo are C/SrA Taylor Moyer, C/SrA Catherine Foy, C/SSgt Robert Boecker and C/SrA Christopher Schuppan.

**AUGUST 2015**

- **REDCAP:** AFRCC Mission 15-C-11483. On 18 August, the Union County OEM asked SDWG to assist the Union County Sheriff to search for the body of a swimmer reported missing near Elk Point on the Missouri River. On 19 August, a Sioux Falls based CAP Cessna-182 took off and flew to the beach where the swimmer entered the water then searched downstream towards Ponca City making several passes along the area. A second sortie was planned for late afternoon, however the body was located by ground units and the second sortie was not needed.

Figure-24 – Cadets lay out signal panels
Figure-25 – Cadets rearrange signal panels

Figure-26 – Spidertracks showing the CAP aircraft search pattern
Figure-27 – Emergency responder ground search vehicles and boat trailers
• *SPLIT SAREX*: On 29 August, the South Dakota Wing held its second state-wide training exercise for 2015. The activity is referred to as a “Split SAREX” (Search and Rescue Exercise), split because coordinated training is conducted simultaneously in the East River and West River areas. The focus was training aircrews, ground search teams and command staffs by using realistic search and rescue scenarios that mirror Civil Air Patrol’s real-world activity.

In the West River area an Incident Command Post was set up at the Wing Headquarters in Rapid City. They were joined by aircraft, vehicles and personnel from the Pierre Composite Squadron in Pierre and from the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer. Under the control of Incident Commander Col. Mike Beason three CAP aircraft flew search and rescue sorties from the squadron’s hangar at the Rapid City Regional airport. In addition, one ground search team operated from the squadron headquarters conducting similar training exercises as the aircraft. The Ground Team and the aircraft used interoperable communications to provide updated search information to each other.

In the East River area, a Staging Base was set up at the headquarters of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron at the Sioux Falls Airport. They were joined there by aircraft, vehicles and personnel from Big Sioux Composite Squadron from Brookings. Three CAP aircraft and three ground teams conducted training exercises similar to those in the West River area.
A Split SAREX gives participants the chance to work with Wing units that don’t often have the opportunity to train together with massed assets. The benefit of such training is teamwork and coordination between command staff, aircrews and ground teams. In addition, a great deal of individual skills training was also accomplished.

- **AUGUST SAREX**: Pierre Composite Squadron’s Lt. Jon Becker acted as the transport pilot to get Lt. Col. Myra Christensen, Maj. Lee Vaughan and himself to the SAREX base in Rapid City on 29 August. During the mission Lt. Col. Christensen and Maj. Vaughan provided communications coverage by flying the airborne repeater for several hours. This allowed personnel that might not have had radio coverage to work in contact with base and others, especially during the ELT searches. Three photo missions were flown with Lt. Col. Chuck Trumble as Pilot-in-Command, Lt. Becker as Observer and Capt. Lisa Swanson and Capt. Doug Robbins alternating as photographers. Lt. Col. Christensen and Maj. David Small worked with the ground teams during an ELT search.

**SEPTEMBER 2015**

- **MOUNTAIN FURY**: From 11 to 13 September, eleven Civil Air Patrol pilots from across the South Dakota Wing participated in “Mountain Fury”, CAP’s Mountain Search Pilot Course. The purpose of the course was to train CAP Mission Pilots to be mountain-qualified CAP Mission Pilots. The activity was directed by Maj. Craig Goodrich, Commander of the Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City. Day one and part of day two were spent in classes on the physics, skills, techniques and perils of mountain flying. The classroom training was at the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron Headquarters in Custer. The blocks of classroom instruction were held on high altitude flying (Capt. Josh Hall), mountain weather (Maj. Craig Goodrich), mountain flying (Col. Mike Beason) and mountain searching (Capt. Matt Meert).

The rest of day two and day three were spent flying training sorties. Flight operations were at the Custer County Airport at Custer. Each mission pilot flew four mission training sorties. Although the elevation of the Black Hills of South Dakota do not provide the kind of mountainous terrain that other mountain states can provide, many of the sorties were flown up around 10,000 feet MSL, and reduced power settings simulated “real” mountain flying. Plus, Custer County Airport and Custer State Park Airport are no walk-in-the-park. A pilot must be thinking about mountain flying to operate in and out of these challenging airports. A total of 25 sorties were flown during the training with seven of the pilots earning or renewing their Mountain Flying Certification.

Capt. Kurt Johnson of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, one of the mission pilots that went through the training said, "I personally gained a great deal of experience and respect for operating safely in "hot and high" environments. Our aircraft take on a whole new set of flight characteristics under these conditions. As pilots, we all read about this...but, the practical experience provided in this clinic was priceless! I feel no mission pilot should exercise their ratings in mountainous terrain without this training or similar practical experience!"
Maj. Goodrich remarked, “Everyone stepped in to help with meals, cleanup, sortie management, and watching over safety. I especially want to thank the First Baptist Church of Custer, who operates Camp Victory, across the road from the airport, for their hospitality in allowing us to use their facilities for lodging and meals. The nearly perfect weather, camaraderie, and storytelling around the campfire each night helped make this weekend a great event.”

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**FIRST GLASSHAWK MISSION**: From 4 – 6 September, pilot proficiency training and familiarization with our new glass panel Cessna-172 (N97947), dubbed “GlassHawk” took place. By coincidence the LifeLight Music Festival, held annually over the Labor Day weekend on the Pederson Farm just east of Worthing was taking place. It provided the aircrew an excellent opportunity to practice mission skills such as aerial observation, aerial photography and a chance to test radio interoperability with the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office. Experience was gained using Spidertracks, the in-flight, near-real-time aircraft tracking system. Personnel involved with the activity on 4 September were Capt. Kurt Johnson (MP), Lt. Col. Rick Larson (MO) and SM Kevin Kayser (MS); on 5 September they were Lt. Jerry Hayden (MP), Lt. Col. Rick Larson (MO) and Lt. Shane Warne; and on 6 September they were Maj. Justin Johnson (MP), Lt. Col. Rick Larson (MO) and Lt. Melanie Schuppan (MS).

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Figure-33 – Mountain Fury Spidertracks of mission sorties flown in and around Custer
Figure-34 – Mountain Fury pilots Jones/Hall, Rushmore Composite Squadron, prepare for flight

Figure-35 – SDWG Cessna-172 (GlassHawk) first mission
• **LOANER AIRCRAFT**: The Big Sioux Composite Squadron reports that the Minnesota Wing has temporarily loaned a Cessna-182RG, a variant with a retractable landing gear, to SDWG. We are fortunate the aircraft is parked here in Brookings where it is available for operational missions. This was one of the planes shown on the news from our last SAREX.

**OCTOBER 2015**

• **SURVIVAL TRAINING**: On 3 October, nine cadets and seniors Maj. Craig Goodrich and Capt. Ryan Jones from the Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City went into the Black Hills to learn how to bivouac and for some survival training. Unfortunately, it turned out to be a cold, rainy weekend, so instead of camping in Black Hills National Forest as planned, we asked for help from Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer. The commander, Capt. Kris Bierwirth, gave us a warm, dry section of floor to sleep on. The cadets learned land navigation skills, how to use a compass, how to start a fire (in the rain) and even got to practice some drill movements under the direction of C/SSg Noah Misselt.

![Figure-36 – Cadets at Rushmore Composite Squadron survival training class](image)

Congratulations to Cadet Lieutenants Bradley Blansett and Justin Harris, both of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron in Spearfish, who completed the requirements for certification as a Ground Team Leader!

• **EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING**: The Pierre Composite Squadron held Emergency Services training for cadets and seniors at an area near the Pierre Airport in October. Terrain there varies from level to hilly and has several types of cover material. Lt. Col. Myra Christensen, Lt. Col. Tam Gatje, C/SMSgt Jonathan Gregory and C/SrA Cordell Hall took turns searching for and finding a practice emergency locator beacon. Two types of hand-held radio-direction-finding (RDF) equipment we have available for a ground search for a missing aircraft were used. Training included an explanation of search operations in the field, followed by hands-on operation of the equipment by each person. A discussion of the equipment and operation followed to give more information. Each member operated the equipment and successfully tracked and ultimately found the target.
Figure-37 – C/SMSgt Gregory and Lt Col Christensen discuss operation of one of the RDF units
Figure-38 – C/SMSgt Gregory and C/SrA Hall compare the two RDF models

NOVEMBER 2015

- **SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE IN PIERRE**: [By Maj. Craig Goodrich] On Saturday, 7 November the SD Wing conducted a Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) in Pierre, SD. The Project Officer, Maj. Nick Gengler created multiple scenarios for the aircrews and ground search teams to conduct electronic and visual searches, as well as airborne photography.

That same morning we learned of a real-world missing person search going on in Pierre and around the state. The Pierre Police Department (PPD), leading the search, felt the resources that we offered wouldn’t be needed. However, we notified our aircrews and ground search teams to be on the lookout for a specific vehicle, and were given the description of the missing person. Coordination with the PDD and working with their data was a good exercise for the mission planning staff. Any time the Wing can coordinate with local law enforcement and emergency managers, even on small tasks, the relationship building, education and experience goes a long way.

Here’s a quick summary of the SAREX:

- 42 CAP personnel participated from across the wing
- 5 CAP aircraft and 5 CAP vans were a part of the mission
- We flew 16 sorties. Many of our aircrews were receiving training and received new qualifications
- We had 12 ground sorties
- We had two large ground search teams that received excellent Ground Team Training

Overall, a lot of people got a lot of great training on a beautiful November day in Pierre. A big thanks to Mustang FBO for the use of their great facilities.
GROUND SEARCH TEAM QUALS: The Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron in Spearfish has begun a push to get all Ground Search Team cadet members to upgrade their qualifications to the GTM1 level. On 21 November, seasoned cadets, worked with Maj. David Small and new Senior Member Cyndy Collister on ground team quals. The squadron takes great pride in the high degree of skill and professionalism of its Ground Search Teams, a critical component of SDWG’s Emergency Services support to local law enforcement and first responders in the rugged Black Hills area.

NEW SQUADRON COMMANDER: Please join Wing Commander Col. Seten in congratulating Major E. W. Filler of Big Sioux Composite Squadron for meeting all FAA requirements for the grade of Commercial Pilot. This significant accomplishment enhances the professionalism of our pilot base and enhances our Wing’s mission capabilities going forward. A key aspect of Maj. Filler’s achievement is that he used a CAP aircraft and CAP instructor and in so doing demonstrated that it is possible to attain a commercial pilot rating using our own internal assets. Great work Maj. Filler!!

NEW WING ES OFFICER: Please join SDWG Director of Operations Maj. Gengler in congratulating and welcoming our new Wing Emergency Services Officer, Lt. Col. Myra Christensen. Myra has over 30 years of CAP experience and has accomplished several ES qualifications from Ground Team Leader to Mission Pilot. As ES Officer she will be working closely with the squadrons on their ES training and the SAREXs. Welcome aboard!
CHAPTER III – AEROSPACE EDUCATION

JANUARY 2015

- **STARLAB**: Lt. David Stockinger, Sioux Falls Composite Squadron Aerospace Education officer arranged a cool AE program on 15 January. A crew from Siouxland Heritage Museum brought their portable stardome to the squadron. From the museum’s website – Gaze into the night sky in our portable planetarium and discover the secrets of the seasonal constellations. Starlab gives viewers the tools to begin their own sky exploration. Starlab encompasses astronomy and mythology. 40 squadron members and guests were transported through the universe as our navigator guided us through the stars of the Northern Hemisphere as they appear at this time of year. We were introduced to Greek mythological characters as we explored how heroes of the past can be found in the night sky as we learned to identify stars and constellations. Capt. Erickson said, "What a great thing to have right at our squadron. It will help me remember how to identify the constellations and how they came about".

![Figure 42 – Starlab inflatable planetarium night sky display](image)
![Figure 43 – Sioux Falls Composite Squadron hosts the Starlab inflatable planetarium](image)

- **YEAGER AWARD**: Congratulations to Capt. Richard Geeting and SM Peter Bierwirth, both of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron, who earned the Aerospace Education Yeager Award!

![Figure 44 – Yeager Award ribbon](image)

FEBRUARY 2015

- **MODEL AIRPLANE BUILDING COMPETITION**: I have ordered six Cessna-172 plastic model kits with CAP markings for a model aircraft building contest! Hopefully the kits get here soon so that I can distribute them. Each squadron will receive one model kit to build. It can be a solo effort or group effort. We plan to judge the six squadron-built models at the Wing Conference in mid-April. I have ordered some cool prizes to be awarded to the top three model builders: a rotor gyrocopter with camera, a remote controlled electric powered airplane, and a model rocketry kit including launch pad.
MARCH 2015

- **BOY SCOUT AVIATION MERIT BADGE EVENT**: On 7 March, Scott Wurzburger, Aviation Merit Badge Counselor, brought five Boy Scouts from Wyoming and South Dakota with two leaders to Rapid City Regional Airport in conjunction with visiting Ellsworth AFB. The Scouts were present to work on their Aviation Merit Badge. SDWG’s Lt. Col. Gary Hewett showed the group through the flight planning facilities at Westjet Air Center, described and demonstrated the preflight checks of a CAP Cessna-182T aircraft, and escorted them through the aircraft maintenance facility at L&D Aero. He also spoke about the origin of CAP and our missions. The scouts were also going to visit the Rapid City Regional Airport control tower. This merit badge event is held every year in early March so it is likely the Boy Scouts will want to coordinate this with us again.
**OPERATION “JOINT EFFORT”:** Calling all Team Builders! Stop talking about FLYING airplanes and actually BUILD one for a change! That’s right. A plastic model Cessna 172 or 182 has been delivered to each squadron for a “JOINT EFFORT” between Senior Members and Cadets to see who can build the best of the best. The finished aircraft must be delivered to Wing Conference on Saturday, 18 April for judging by Wing Staff and a “SPECIAL” guest judge who shall remain nameless at this point. There no losers in this competition because each unit gets to proudly display their “teamwork” in their home Squadron. The top 3 finishers get to choose from a Remote Piloted Vehicle with camera, a Remote Controlled Aircraft, and a Rocket with launcher. So let’s get out your utility tools, glue and paint brushes get started. Show us what you can do together as a team. Deadline is only 3 weeks away!

**OPERATION JOINT EFFORT:** Cadets and seniors of Pierre Composite Squadron began work on “Operation Joint Effort”, the Wing’s model aircraft building competition. The team worked on the model during a meeting and will continue to do so at meetings and outside of them. The glue, paint, paint brushes and other tools were collected from members to get the project under way. Judging of each squadron’s aircraft will be at the Wing Conference.

Figure-48 – Pierre Composite Squadron Operation Joint Effort

**AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE TOUR:** On 19 March, Sioux Falls Composite Squadron arranged a special tour of Joe Foss Field, the SD Air National Guard Base, the F16s and to view the fighters taking off on night sorties.

Figure-49 – Sioux Falls Air National Guard Base Tour
Figure-50 – F-16 afterburner after dark
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<td>APRIL 2015</td>
<td>LETTER OF APPRECIATION</td>
<td>SDWG, more specifically Lt. Col. Gary Hewett, received a Letter of Appreciation from Mr. Scott Wurzburger, an Aviation Merit Badge Counselor for Boy Scouts of America. On 7 March, Mr. Wurzburger brought five Boy Scouts and two adult leaders to the Rapid City Regional Airport in conjunction with visiting Ellsworth AFB. The Scouts were working on their Aviation Merit Badge. Lt. Col. Hewett escorted the group through the flight planning facilities at Westjet Air Center, described and demonstrated the preflight checks of a CAP Cessna-182T aircraft, and escorted them through the aircraft maintenance facility at L&amp;D Aero. He also spoke about the origin of CAP and our missions. The scouts were also going to visit the airport’s control tower. This merit badge event is held every year in early March so it is likely the Boy Scouts will want to coordinate this with us again.</td>
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<td>OPERATION JOINT EFFORT JUDGEMENT</td>
<td>Awards presentations at the 2015 Wing Conference began with the announcement of the winners of the model airplane build-off dubbed “Operation Joint Effort”. The aircraft were on display from 1200-1800 in the hotel breezeway where everyone could see, admire and compare. All entries were exquisitely assembled and adorned with appropriate colors and appendages. Some had crewmembers standing by to marshal out of the chocks. Some had special features such as animal tracking antennae or cockpit crewmembers. They were all “special” in one way or another. Wing Staff were the judges. Sioux Falls Composite Squadron took top honors and chose the camera-equipped, radio-operated Hover-copter. Second place went to Rushmore Composite who chose the Powered Remote Controlled Airplane. Third place was Big Sioux Composite Squadron who was awarded an air launched rocket for their efforts. Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron did not place but their replica 1950 Cessna-170 was chosen to be placed in the SD Air National Guard Museum in Pierre for everyone to enjoy. Rushmore donated theirs as well. South Dakota Congresswoman Kristie Noem also got in on the judging. She chose to be the deciding vote in case of a tie, which did not happen. We did, however, award the winning aircraft to her to display in her trophy case for her efforts. Everyone was a winner in this competition. A special thanks for everyone who pitched in to help build these models.</td>
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Figure-51 – Congresswoman Noem helps judge Operation Joint Effort aircraft
• Crazy Horse Composite Squadron may not have won Operation Joint Effort, the Wing model airplane building competition, but we did have fun building our model aircraft! In our eyes we did win, we got to enjoy our hard work in our squadron.

• **FAA SAFETY CONFERENCE**: The Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, representing CAP, set up a table and talked about what we do at a seminar on 7 April at the Main Terminal Conference Room of Sioux Falls Regional Airport. The event, the “2015 annual Pilot & Airport Evening User Meeting”, provided current information on runway safety and airspace operational concerns. In addition, attendees had the opportunity to meet with FAA personnel from the Air Traffic Control, Flight Standards and South Dakota FAA Air Safety Team. As it turned out the event was packed, standing room only. Capt. Jason Erickson led the CAP contingent playing host, mingling and shaking hands. Senior members in attendance were Capt. Kurt Johnson, Capt. Karla West, Capt. Jerry Zurovski, Lt. Dale Palmer and Capt. Joe Oye. The cadets; C/CMSgt Jaden Roblewsky, C/Lt Nicholas Nash, C/Amn Taylor Moyer and C/SSgt Kyle Clement did us proud as they always do, looking sharp.

**MAY 2015**

• Please join Wing Commander Col. John Seten in congratulating our FY15 Cadet Flight Scholarship recipients:
  - $1000 C/CMSgt Jaden Roblewsky Sioux Falls Composite Squadron
  - $1000 C/2nd Lt Nicholas Nash Sioux Falls Composite Squadron
  - $ 700 C/MSgt Hannah Becker Pierre Composite Squadron

**JULY 2015**

• **CADET ATTENDS NATIONAL BLUE BERET**: C/Lt Devon Brown of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron attended this year’s National Cadet Special Activity “Blue Beret” at the Experimental Aircraft Association’s annual airshow “AirVenture 2015” held at Wittman Regional Airport at Oshkosh, WI.

![Figure-52](image-url)
**HORACE MANN STUDENTS VISIT**: On 21 July, the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron was visited by students and teachers from Horace Mann Elementary School in Sioux Falls. The students had read a book on wilderness flying and wanted to get a better understanding of what they had read. Their teacher, Mr. Todd Peterson, contacted Lt. Col. Larson for assistance. Lt. Col. Larson arranged for the squadron to set up flight simulators and had cadets on hand to assist and answer questions. Then the group trooped over to the hanger where they received a briefing and got to examine the squadron’s aircraft. The students gained an elementary understanding of how a plane works, what it takes to fly a plane and experienced sitting in the pilot seat. Participants were Members that assisted the visit were Lt. Col. Larson, Maj. Todd Epp, Capt. Jerry Zurovski, C/Lt Nash, and C/CMSgts Hayden and Roblewski. We will host several more students soon and hope to get Mr. Peterson a "fly a teacher" flight.

Figure-53 – Horace Mann School student enjoys a flight simulation program
Figure-54 – Horace Mann School students receive an aircraft briefing

**AUGUST 2015**

**ELLSWORTH AFB AIRSHOW**: Saturday, 15 August, dawned warm and clear - a perfect day for an air show. By 0900 the crowds were pouring in, by the end of the weekend it was reported that over 17,000 people had visited the airshow. World War II and Korean War vintage aircraft performed for the crowd. The Air Force Thunderbirds performed as the highlight of the show. Some 20 CAP members from the Rushmore, Pierre and Lookout Mountain Composite Squadrons hosted visitors wanting a peek in a CAP Cessna-172 and Cessna182. Many asked lots of questions and learned about CAP's role in the community. Maj Craig Goodrich worked with Ellsworth AFB personnel to get a CAP table and two aircraft in a prominent location at the show. On Sunday the crowds were a bit thinner but the CAP table stayed busy. Even USAF personnel from F-15 aircrew to Academy cadets came by to learn about CAP. Lt Kris Bierwirth brought a contingent of cadets from Custer to enjoy the show on Sunday. Lt Col Greg Lair and C/SMSgt Julia Lair came from as far away as Sioux Falls. The Pine Ridge Squadron at Chadron, Nebraska squadron sent a contingent and one visitor introduced himself as a CAP senior member from the
Las Vegas Composite Squadron. Sunday afternoon we left for home sunburned and tired but with a list of over fifty people who showed an interest in CAP.

Figure-55 – SDWG’s static display at Ellsworth AFB Open House

Figure-56 – Visitors tour a SDWG aircraft
Figure-57 – Visitors to the CAP table learn about SDWG

- **DAKOTA THUNDER AIRSHOW**: Several of us from Crazy Horse Composite Squadron attended the Dakota Thunder Air Show on the 15th and 16th at Ellsworth AFB. What an amazing event. It was so fascinating it renewed our energy! Our members were able to watch the Thunderbirds perform after which we were able to chat with a couple of the pilots. Awesome!

Figure-58 – USAF Thunderbirds perform at the Ellsworth AFB airshow
Figure-59 – Crazy Horse Composite Squadron cadets meet two Thunderbird pilots

- **AOPA ANOKA FLY-IN**: [By C/Lt Nicholas Nash] On 21-22 August, Sioux Falls Composite Squadron members attended the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association Fly-In at the Anoka County Airport in Minnesota. Friday morning we toured the FAA Air Traffic Control Center in Minneapolis. We were briefed on the missions and procedures, led through the Center’s work modules on the “floor”, and actually got to sit one-on-one with an Air Traffic
Controller and watch them in action. The next event was a tour of a WWII aviation museum. The docents were a WWII veteran fighter pilot and a WWII veteran helicopter mechanic. We learned the functions and design of an ejection seat, saw exclusive footage from 9/11, toured hangers full of old training cockpits and jet engines, and walked through a static display of WWII aircraft. That evening was the “Cirrus Life” Reception for Cirrus owners. We listened to the President of Cirrus speak about the new Cirrus Vision Jet, and toured a private hanger full of completely restored vintage aircraft. The Fly-In officially began Saturday morning. We were on the airfield bright and early to see as many airplanes as possible, talk to the pilots, and sit in a few cockpits. The Main Stage held interesting guest speakers all with the same passion for aviation as we have. One of the most unique and entertaining Aerospace Education trips of the year!

Figure-60 – Sioux Falls Composite Squadron members visit Anoka Fly-In

Figure-61 – Sioux Falls Composite Squadrons members pose with a WWII Warbird

**SEPTEMBER 2015**

- **MODEL ROCKETRY**: Capt. Victoria Bierwirth of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron taught a Goddard rocketry class to several Custer High School 9th grade classes.

- **AEROSPACE EXCELLENCE AWARD**: Crazy Horse Composite Squadron has earned the Aerospace Excellence Award for the second year in a row. What a great team we are building!
Figure-62 – Custer Composite Squadron members with the AE Certificates

OCTOBER 2015

- **GLIDING IN MINNESOTA**: By Capt. Neil Schmid. It was a great day for flying for the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on Saturday, 17 October. A fortuitous confluence of events led to the availability of two Sioux Falls based SDWG aircraft, a MNWG glider, six cadets and several senior members for a day of powered orientation flights and gliding over the Mankato Minnesota countryside.

Getting from Sioux Falls to Mankato was half the fun. Lt. Jerry Hayden was pilot in command and orientation pilot for Cadet Kyle Clement, with Cadets Taylor Moyer and Kyle Kreger as backseaters in the squadron’s new Cessna-172 “GlassHawk”. This aircraft features state of the art Garmin G500 and GTN650 “glass” cockpit instrumentation and navigation systems. Capt. Neil Schmid piloted the squadron’s Cessna-182 G1000 equipped aircraft and was the orientation pilot for Cadet Nick Nash. This was Nash’s final powered orientation flight, which covered aviation topics such as weather, compensating for wind by crabbing, wake turbulence avoidance, and how climb rate is affected by temperate and altitude. Back seat flyers were Cadets Max Moline and Robert Boecker.

Once the crews landed at Mankato at 1130, an initial introduction to gliders was given by MNWG Maj. Carl Hallum. After pre-flight checks the glider was moved to Mankato’s long grass runway. Then the Cessna-172 tow-plane underwent pre-flight checks. This aircraft has a special “climb” propeller and flying it is somewhat tricky because the difference between the stall speed of the Cessna and the maximum speed of the glider isn’t all that great. This was Capt. Schmid’s first time as a tow-pilot trainee and at the conclusion of seven glider tows he was getting the hang of it.

The gliders were towed to an altitude of 2,500 feet and released. The glider remained aloft for about 15 minutes for each flight. The glider was flown by orientation pilot MNWG Capt. William Pagel and he successfully mentored SDWG Cadets Kreger (glider flight #3), Moyer (glider flight #1), Boecker (glider flight #1), Clement (glider flight #1 & 2), Moline (glider flight #1), and Nash (glider flight #3). It was a cool day and by the end of the glider flights pilot Pagel was a bit chilly because the glider is drafty and without a heater.
On the way home, Lt. Hayden piloted the Cessna-182 with Cadet Boecker at the controls and Capt. Schmid piloted the Cessna-172 with Cadet Moyer receiving his third powered flight experience. Everyone was smiling at the end of the day with the great experience of flight Thanks to Lt. Col. Greg Lair for herding the cats on this one and to Lt. Jerry Hayden for coordination on the ground.

Figure-63 – Sioux Falls Composite Squadron members fly to Mankato

Figure-64 – Sioux Falls Composite Squadron crew heading to Mankato

MANKATO GLIDER FLIGHT OPERATIONS

Figure-65 – CAP glider in tow at Mankato
Figure-66 – CAP Glider comes in for landing

Figure-67 – View from the glider cockpit
Figure-68 – Preflight glider checks

• **BEUCKENS FLIGHT SCHOLARSHIP**: Rosemary Beuckens and family visited Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on 1 October. She has been a strong supporter of our cadet program for many years. Her son Brett was killed in a plane crash in 2010 and she started a memorial flight scholarship in his honor. The Beuckens family and friends have donated money for the past several years to further Sioux Falls Composite Squadron cadets’ aspirations to learn to fly. In recognition of their support Capt. Erickson presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation as a champion of Civil Air Patrol, our cadet program, and encourager of our young pilots to pursue their dreams.

• **AE SENIOR LEVEL**: Congratulations to Capt Victoria Bierwirth of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer on earning “Senior” level in Specialty Track - Aerospace Education in CAP’s Senior Member Professional Development Program!
DECEMBER 2015

- **NEW SQUADRON AE OFFICER:** We would like to introduce the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron’s new Aerospace Education (AE) officer, 1st Lt. Andrew Moline. Andrew and his son, Max, joined our squadron a few months ago from the Northeast Missouri squadron. The Moline family moved from Missouri to Sioux Center, Iowa in August, and now travel three hours round trip to attend meetings with Sioux Falls on Thursday nights.

Andrew comes to us with a great deal of experience in safety, Drug Demand Reduction, cadet programs, and training. When asked how he became interested in the AE program Andrew stated, "It didn't take long after joining CAP before I became aware of the proud history of aerospace education CAP has to offer young people. While perusing an old rocketry package with my son, my background in engineering and personal interest in 20th century history was piqued."

Andrew took the rocketry program to the limits in his former squadron. The cadets there earned their rocketry badges, he got the STEM program going, and he traveled with cadets to wing activities to help facilitate their AE experience. Andrew’s goal, along with that of the cadet AE leadership, is to take Sioux Falls to the same place in the AE program. They hope to start the cadets off with rockets, then move on to radio controlled aircraft. SFCS is very lucky to have new members willing to offer not only their expertise, but also their time in order to provide cadets with the opportunity to learn, lead, and pursue excellence. Welcome 1st Lt. Andrew Moline and C/MSgt. Max Moline.

![Figure-69 – New Sioux Falls Composite Squadron Aerospace Education Officer](image-url)
CHAPTER IV – CADET PROGRAMS

JANUARY 2015

- **WE'RE GOING TO THE NATIONAL FINALS:** “Team Big Sioux”, the Big Sioux Composite Squadron’s cadet cybersecurity team, is going to the national finals of the CyberPatriot-VII competition for the fourth year in a row! To earn the all-expenses-paid trip the cadet cyber-sleuths placed first in regional round of the competition. The national finals of the competition will be in March in Washington, D.C.

In the finals, the only in-person round, the team will compete to defend virtual networks and mobile devices from a professional aggressor team. The finalists will also face-off in three additional competition components: Digital Cyber Crime Scene Challenge, Cisco Networking Challenge, and Digital Forensics Challenge. These extra challenges broaden the cybersecurity experience and expose teams to new elements of the many career opportunities available to them. The team will be scored on how quickly and effectively they establish and maintain secure networks.

Team Big Sioux consists of Team Captain C/Maj Joshua Klosterman of Brandon, C/2nd Lt Chris Dinnel, C/SMSgt Jaden Petersen, C/SSgt Sergeant Nathaniel Fleet, all from Lake Benton, MN, and C/2nd Lt Laura Rudnik of Brookings. The team is coached by Capt. Shannon Hofer of Hendricks, MN and mentored by Cadet Captain Tyler Gross of Volga.

![Figure 70 - “Team Big Sioux” cadet cybersecurity specialists relax after a grueling session](image)

- **CADET COMMAND CHANGE:** The torch of cadet responsibility for leadership of the Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron was passed on 22 January. Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Justin Harris handed over the reins of command to Cadet Second Lieutenant Bradley Blansett
with the assistance of Chief Master Sergeant Connor Caneva. Squadron Commander Captain Bill Collister presided.

![Figure 71 – Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron change of Cadet Command Ceremony](image1)

- **CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT**: Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron’s Capt Sylvia Small conducted a character development course on "The Ethics of Fiscal Responsibility – Part 2". Eight cadets and six seniors were present for the lively course.

![Figure 72 - Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron Character Development Course](image2)

- **FIRE, FIRE, BURING BRIGHT**: On 26 January the Rushmore Composite Squadron had a special training opportunity. A couple members needed to extinguish a fire as part of their Ground Team Leader training. So, Maj Goodrich thought it would be good to train everyone in this valuable skill and take advantage of the special CAP/USAF relationship. He shared the
surprise during the commander’s call briefing – and all the members of the squadron drove to Ellsworth AFB’s Fire Department. Everyone got to extinguish a fire with a Halon extinguisher (Maj Goodrich and Lt Col Hewett had an “opportunity” to find out what breathing in a small amount of the gas feels like). Afterwards everyone headed back to the squadron where the Ground Team members completed training using the task guide and overseen by a special Ground Team Leader Skills Evaluator/Trainer - Capt Collister. One cadet remarked that night, “This was one of the most fun things we’ve done at a meeting!” Special thanks go to A1C Jordan LaPoint, and SSgt Zach McCormick of the 28th Bomb Wing Fire Department.

Figure 73 – Rushmore Composite Squadron Cadet Fire Fighter
Figure 74 – Rushmore Composite Squadron Commander fights training fire

FEBRUARY 2015

- **TRAINING LEADERS OF CADETS**: On 17 February, a joint NDWG/SDWG training session was held for the “Training Leaders of Cadets” course. The program was held at the Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings. Nine members from the two wings attended: ND-119 (Fargo) members included Capt. Darryl Hick, SM Diana Billick, Lt. Ashley Ehret, and Capt. John Hoeck. Those from SDWG included: Capt. Karen Espeland (SD-050), and Capt. Elliott Filler and Lt. Thomas Delay (SD-058). Lt. Col. Linda Buechler was course director assisted by Col. Mary Donley. Senior Members learned how to become better mentors of cadets and more effective managers of cadet squadrons. The course is a component of Specialty Track - Cadet Programs Officer Specialty Track in the Senior Member Professional Development Program. Great discussions were held between members attending this course.

MARCH 2015

- **CYBERPatriot WIN**: The cadet cyber-security team of Big Sioux Composite Squadron took second place in the national finals of the Air Force Association’s CyberPatriot-VII Competition held in Washington, D.C. from 11-15 March. In addition, they were the top Civil Air Patrol team in the competition.

The team from Brookings competed in the “All Service Division” national finals for the fourth year in a row against teams from the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Junior ROTC programs, the Naval Sea Cadet Corps and the Civil Air Patrol. In CyberPatriot-VII 1,007 teams competed
in the All Services Division, 400 teams from CAP units. Only the top two teams from each organization in the All Services Division got to go to the national finals. “We are extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Big Sioux squadron in their pursuit of being the top team in the competition. A lot of hard work and dedication goes into preparation for this competition and to be the top Civil Air Patrol team in the nation is no easy feat.” Said Colonel John Seten, the Wing Commander of the South Dakota Civil Air Patrol.

In the national finals 28 teams, 13 from the All Service Division, competed to defend virtual networks and mobile devices from a professional aggressor team. The national finalists also faced off in four additional competition components: the Digital Cyber Crime Scene Challenge from the Digital Forensic Consortium, the Cisco Networking Challenge, the Leidos Digital Forensics Challenge and a Mobile Application Challenge hosted by AT&T. The teams were scored on how quickly and effectively they established and maintained secure networks.

Team Big Sioux consists of Team Captain C/Maj Joshua Klosterman of Brandon, C/2nd Lt Chris Dinnel, C/CMSgt Jaden Petersen and C/T Sgt Nathaniel Fleet, all from Lake Benton, MN, and C/2nd Lt Laura Rudnik of Brookings. The team is coached by Capt. Shannon Hofer of Hendricks, MN, who is the Big Sioux Composite Squadron commander as well as the South Dakota Wing's Director of Information Technology and Web Security Administrator and mentored by Cadet Captain Tyler Gross of Volga.

CyberPatriot VII began last October with more than 2,100 teams from all 50 states, Canada and Department of Defense dependent schools in Europe and the Pacific. After two months of rigorous online challenges, the Open Division and All Service Division teams were divided into three tiers: Platinum, Gold and Silver. Team Big Sioux was placed in the Platinum Tier. The teams continued to compete within their tiers for state awards and advancement to the regional/category round. Only teams in the top Platinum tier were eligible to advance to national finals competition. Team Big Sioux at the CyberPatriot-VII competition awards ceremony (l-r) Col. Larry Ragland, NHQ Chief Of Staff, C/Maj Joshua Klosterman, C/CMSgt Jaden Petersen, C/Lt Laura Rudnik, C/Lt Chris Dinnel, C/T Sgt Nathaniel Fleet.

Figure 75 - Team Big Sioux at CyberPatriot-VII Awards ceremony
• **CPR COURSE**: On 12 March the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron hosted a CPR class for the community. Eight squadron members and one civilian certified in the technique. Aaron Bostel from Regional Health taught the class. In the photo Cadet Hunter Rice (left) and C/A1C Anthony Dillon (right) practice their newly learned skill on a training device.

![Figure 76 – Crazy Horse Composite Squadron CPR Course](image)

• **COLOR GUARD PERFORMANCE**: The Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron Color Guard helped kick off the annual convention of the Fraternal Services National Mutual Benefit. On 28 February, Spearfish cadets posted and guarded the colors at The Lodge in Deadwood. C/CMSgt Justin Harris, C/Lt Jared Doyle, C/MSgt Austin Rauscher and C/SSgt Peter Iverson made up the Color Guard while C/CMSgt Connor Caneva added his expertise in inspection and coaching of the posting party. Senior Members Capt. Bill Collister and Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese added to CAP’s presence. This was a repeat performance for the Color Guard as they have performed for the group at their conferences in the past. The professionalism of the Color Guard in the past was in the minds of the organizers as they planned this meeting.

![Figure 77 – Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron Color Guard](image)
DOUBLE OUTSTANDING CADET AWARD: C/Lt Jason Parry of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron was presented with the Air Force Association Award for Outstanding Cadet by USAF 1st Sergeant Scott Marsich (Ret.). C/Lt Parry was also presented with the Air Force Sergeants Award for Outstanding Cadet by USAF MSgt Christina McCormick.

Figure 78 – C/Lt Parry and First Sergeant Marsich
Figure 79 – C/Lt Parry and MSgt McCormick

APRIL 2015

WING CONFERENCE: South Dakota Wing held its 2015 Wing Conference on Saturday, 18 April at the Clubhouse Hotel and Suites in Pierre. About 85 officers and cadets from SDWG attended. The highlight of the morning session was a skit titled “Daddy’s Girl” performed by cadets, under the supervision of Lt. Col. Buechler, on the consequences of drunk driving. Following the general session the senior member participants split up to attend breakout sessions on a variety of administrative and operational issues. The cadets attended breakout sessions on DDR, AE, and the National Cadet Competition. In addition, the Wing Cadet Advisory Council met. The senior member and cadet breakout sessions lasted until the late afternoon when it was time to begin to prepare for the evening’s banquet and awards ceremony.

CADET WINGMAN COURSE: The Crazy Horse Composite Squadron is 100% into the new Cadet Wingman Course. The course is in building trust that even if you are unable to have all of your faculties your "wingman" is there to help and guide you.

OUTSTANDING CADET OFFICER AWARD: C/Capt Nicole Schneider of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron received an Outstanding Officer Award from the Air Force Association on 26 March. The award was presented to her by USAF Col. (CAP Lt. Col.) Greg Lair.

Figure 80 – C/Capt Schneider receives award from Col Lair
• **OUTSTANDING CADET NCO AWARD:** C/MSgt Steven Diaconu of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron received an Outstanding Noncommissioned Officer Award from the Air Force Association on 26 March. The award was presented to him by USAF Col. (CAP Lt. Col.) Greg Lair.

![Figure 81 – C/MSgt Steven Diaconu receives award from Col Lair](image)

• **CAP ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP:** Congratulations to C/Maj Brandon West of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on being awarded a CAP academic scholarship! Each year CAP partners with its academic and organizational partners to award over $350,000 in scholarships to its members. Just recently C/Maj West was notified that he had been awarded a $1,000 academic scholarship provided by the United Services Automobile Association (USAA) insurance company. Cadet West was awarded the scholarship based on “superior performance as a student, citizenship, and Civil Air Patrol achievements”, according to Steven Trupp, CAP Cadet Program Manager. USAA provides academic scholarships each year to three outstanding cadets for assistance in pursuing undergraduate education. Brandon is working towards a degree in the University of Minnesota’s School of Nursing Honor Program.

**MAY 2015**

• **WING FLIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS:** Join Wing Commander Seten in congratulating our FY15 Cadet Flight Scholarship recipients:

  - $1000  C/CMSgt Jaden Roblewsky  Sioux Falls Composite Squadron
  - $1000  C/2nd Lt Nicholas Nash  Sioux Falls Composite Squadron
  - $700  C/MSgt Hannah Becker  Pierre Composite Squadron

• **CADET LEADERSHIP:** Crazy Horse Composite Squadron has been working on improving our programs and giving the cadets more responsibility. One example of such was C/SMSgt Thomas Dillon led a Character Development class. We are moving forward with the DDR portion of CAP. Our first class was “React with a kiss” where the cadets learned how being impaired can even affect opening a candy kiss. C/Lt Jason Parry taught an ES class on running a
ground search. Topics addressed included organization and operation of a telephone alert system, conducting a line search, marking a search route, and post mission individual refit. The cadets learn a great deal and got to practice their newly learned skills between the rain drops.

- **CADET AWARDS**: Congratulations to Capt. James Dillon of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron who received a Certification of Appreciation and a challenge coin for all of his the hard work and challenges he has overcome to get to where he is today.

- **CADET AWARD**: Congratulations to C/SMSgt Thomas Dillon of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron who received a Certification of Appreciation for his excellent leadership skills and for using those skills to further the squadron’s cadet program. Thomas really enjoys teaching and sharing his knowledge with others.

**JUNE 2015**

- **WING CADET ADVISORY COUNCIL**: The 2015 Wing Cadet Advisory Council is at the end of its term. The current term ends at the end of July and the new CAC is effective on 1 August. The CAC planned and executed a Cadet Leadership School in Pierre in February and a color guard training activity in Sioux Falls in June. The CAC met regularly and discussed many cadet-related topics. The 2015 CAC was chaired by C/Capt Nicole Schneider. Other primary members were Cadets Jaden Petersen, Jason Parry, Hannah Becker, Errol Kelly, Nicholas Nash and Jared Doyle. Assistants were Cadets Chris Dinnel, Thomas Dillon, Silas Busch, Steven Diaconu and Justin Harris. The South Dakota Wing was represented at the North Central Region by Cadet Joshua Klosterman, assisted by Cadet Silas Busch. C/Lt Col Joshua Klosterman, assisted by C/CMSgt Blake Hayden, will represent the South Dakota Wing on the NCR CAC. Klosterman has also been named as assistant NCR representative to the National CAC.

- **COLOR GUARD**: On 16 June, the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron’s Color Guard marched in the Elkton Harvest Festival. The event consisted of a parade, a carnival and the Miss Elkton pageant. The cadets looked sharp and performed flawlessly. Many favorable comments were overheard about our presence at the event.

Figure 82 – Crazy Horse Composite Squadron Color Guard at Elkton
- **Honor Cordon:** The cadets of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron derive pleasure and pride in their interactions with various community activities. Less often, but significantly, they have been called upon to participate in more solemn roles. Such was the case with the internment of CAP Lt. Col. Keith Collins at the Black Hills National Cemetery.

Lt. Col. Keith Collins was one of the key figures in the founding of the Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron in the West River area in 1987. He served the squadron for many years and, while not the very first, was one of the early squadron commanders there. Civil Air Patrol and LMCS was a very important part of his life.

After Keith passed away several months ago his wife, Lorraine, in planning the memorial service for internment of his ashes, specifically requested LMCS cadets present a flag line in his honor at the ceremony.

The cadets were honored to fulfill her request on Monday, 8 June. Two impressive flag lines of four cadets each greeted the guests at the entrance to the chapel at the Black Hills National Cemetery. After all were gathered, they marched inside to flank the assembly during the service. They preceded the guests out and flanked them as they exited the chapel.

The cadets comprising the CAP entourage were Cadet Commander C/Lt Bradley Blansett, C/Lt Jared Doyle, C/CMSgt Justin Harris, C/CMSgt Connor Caneva, C/SMSgt Ryan Harris, C/MSgt Austin Raucher, C/MSgt Keyvin Raucher, and C/SSgt Peter Iverson. Anchoring each of the flag lines were Capt. Bill Collister, and Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese.

Figure 83 – Lt. Col. Keith Collins Memorial Service

Figure 84 – Lt. Col. Keith Collins Memorial Service Right Honor Cordon

Figure 85 – Lt. Col. Keith Collins Memorial Service Left Honor Cordon
JOINT DAKOTAS ENCAMPMENT: The 2015 Joint Dakota Encampment was held from 10-19 July at Camp Rapid, SD. This year’s encampment logo bears the motto “Omnia Vincit Animus” (Courage Conquers All). The theme for the encampment was “Cadet Leadership”. Under the supervision of Encampment Commander Maj. Nick Gengler and his staff of senior members, the cadet staff, from Cadet Commander down to the Flight Sergeants and supernumeraries, planned and conducted the encampment. Cadets leading and teaching cadets. Military customs and courtesies, drill and ceremonies, physical fitness, small arms marksmanship, night field training maneuvers, obstacle course and leadership confidence course, and training on the skills and techniques of leadership were just some of the activities at the encampment. Attendance at an encampment qualifies cadets to participate in more advanced summer opportunities such as flight academies. Of course, this year’s general encampment attendees will have the opportunity to return next year, this time as cadet staff/instructors.

Maj. Gengler reports 81 members attended the encampment: 22 Senior Members (3 NDWG and 19 SDWG), and 59 cadets (16 NDWG, 1 each from MOWG, IDWG, MNWG, and 40 SDWG). Two of the highlights of the encampment were tours of the SDANG Helicopters at the Army Aviation Support Facility at the Rapid City Regional Airport and the Air and Space Museum outside Ellsworth AFB. The cadets did some great team building exercises at the Leadership Reaction Courses at Camp Rapid West. We also got to see live training of the Officer Basic Course going on at Camp Rapid West for NCOs that the Army National Guard selected to train as Officers. To wrap it all up we had a big banquet at the end at Ellsworth AFB. We had 20 guests show up to view the graduation of cadets. Overall it was a successful Encampment and everyone had a great time. Wing Commander Col. John Seten and Wing Vice Commander Lt. Col. Richard Larson travelled to Camp Rapid for a briefing on Encampment operations and to meet and speak with the staff and participants.

Figure 86 – Logo of the 2015 Joint NDWG/SDWG Encampment
Figure 87 – Joint Dakotas Encampment SDWG Col. Seten speaks with staff
Figure 88 – Joint Dakotas Encampment SDWG Lt. Col. Larson speaks with attendees

COLOR GUARD: The Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron participated in a big way in the Spearfish 4th of July parade. A color guard consisting of the C/Lt Justin Harris, C/SMSgt Ryan Harris and C/CMSgt Connor Caneva lead the squadron van while BDU clad cadets C/Lt Doyle, C/AB Anderson and C/Col William Small followed the van demonstrating L-PER radio-direction-finding gear. After the parade a recruiting table was set up in Spearfish Park. Cadet
Doyle, who inexplicably had brought along his trombone, spontaneously joined the 7th Cavalry Drum & Bugle Corp out of Rapid City in performing patriotic songs in Spearfish Park. We had some distinguished guests as World’s Junior Teen Miss South Dakota Tourism 2015 and World’s Teen Miss Sturgis Tourism 2015 requested that their pictures be taken with our group. Senior member participants were: Lt. Col. Jim Hopewell, Capt. Sylvia Small, Lt. David Small III and Maj. David Small. After all events were completed the CAP contingent retreated to Culver’s to cool off with ice cream treats.

Figure 89 – Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron Color Guard
Figure 90 – Lookout Mountain composite Squadron Ground Team

- **SIGNAL PANELS:** 23 July, several Sioux Falls Composite Squadron cadets trained on ground-to-air signals. The cadets laid out the various colored panels used to communicate information from a ground search team to a CAP aircraft overhead. In the left photo are C/SrA Taylor Moyer, C/SrA Catherine Foy, C/SSgt Robert Boecker and C/SrA Christopher Schuppan. In the right photo are C/SrA Moyer and C/SSgt Boecker.

Figure 91 – Sioux Falls Composite Squadron cadets lay signal panels
Figure 92 – Sioux Falls Composite Squadron cadets rearrange signal panels

- **NATIONAL CADET OFFICERS SCHOOL:** Sioux Falls Composite Squadron’s Cadet Major Nicole Schneider attended CAP’s prestigious National Cadet Officers School from 19-29 July. The NCOS is an academically challenging program designed to develop cadets’ broader understanding of leadership as a discipline. She joined 120 cadet colleagues from 36 states at NHQ at Maxwell Air Force Base for the 10-day, college-level course.
- **NCSA BLUE BERET**: Sioux Falls Composite Squadron’s C/Lt Devon Brown attended the 2015 National Cadet Special Activity “Blue Beret” at the Experimental Aircraft Association’s annual airshow “AirVenture 2015” held at Wittman Regional Airport at Oshkosh, WI.

**AUGUST 2014**

- **CADET COMMAND CHANGE**: On 20 August, a ceremony was held at Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron on the campus of the Black Hills Airport. With the ceremonial passing of the unit guidon C/2nd Lt. Bradley Blansett transferred authority as Cadet Commander to C/1st Lt Jared Doyle. Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese presided, assisted by C/CMSgt Connor Caneva.

![Figure 93 – Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron change of cadet command](image)
![Figure 94 – Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron guidon surrender](image)
![Figure 95 – Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron acceptance](image)

- **BILLY MITCHELL AWARD**: On 20 August, C/2nd Lt Justin Harris of Lookout Mountain Composite squadron was presented with the Billy Mitchell Award. This prestigious award is earned through considerable time, study and testing. The Billy Mitchell Award, the second of four “milestone” awards, is most notable as it marks a cadet’s progress as he transitions from the cadet enlisted ranks into the cadet officer ranks. Wing Chief of Staff Maj. David Small, Jr. presented the award certificate to C/2nd Lt Harris.

![Figure 96 – Harris receives Mitchell Award](image)

- **CADET COMMAND CHANGE**: On 6 August, a traditional and time honored ceremony was held at Sioux Falls Composite Squadron headquarters. Cadet Major Nicole Schneider passed command of the squadron’s Cadet Corps to Cadet First Lieutenant Nicholas Nash. Maj. Justin Johnson, who at the time was the Squadron Deputy Commander for Cadets, presented the squadron guidon to C/1st Lt Nash. In doing so he symbolically and officially passed to him the authority and responsibility of command.

![Figure 97 – Sioux Falls Composite Squadron Cadet Change of Command Ceremony](image)
- **CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT**: Capt. Jason Erickson held a Character Development seminar for cadet members of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron at the meeting on 6 August. The seminar was focused on the importance of mutual respect and the positive impact it can have on unit discipline and morale. The seminar was well received by the cadets and engendered some interesting discussion, comments and suggestions.

- **OUTSTANDING CADET NCO**: Congratulations to C/CMSgt Josiah Huntington of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron who was recognized by the local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Chapter as the Outstanding Squadron NCO of the Year! The award is based on demonstrating outstanding leadership qualities in CAP, having high moral character, patriotism and professionalism. The award was presented on behalf of the VFW by squadron Commander Capt. Jason Erickson.

![Image of Huntington receiving award](Figure 98 – Huntington VFW NCO of the Year)

![Image of VFW NCO of the Year Certificate](Figure 99 – VFW NCO of the Year Certificate)

- **OUTSTANDING CADET OFFICER**: Congratulations to C/Lt Nicholas Nash of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron who was recognized by the local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Chapter as the Outstanding Squadron Officer of the Year! The award is based on demonstrating outstanding leadership qualities in CAP, having high moral character, patriotism and professionalism. The award was presented on behalf of the VFW by squadron Commander Capt. Jason Erickson.

![Image of Nash receiving award](Figure 100 – Nash VFW Officer of the Year)

![Image of VFW Officer of the Year Certificate](Figure 101 – VFW Officer of the Year Certificate)
**SEPTEMBER 2015**

- **WING GREAT START**: On 26 September, new CAP cadets from all three west-river squadrons joined together at the Rushmore Composite Squadron for a Great Start clinic. Some of the classes covered leadership, aerospace education, chain of command, the CAP rank structure and proper wear of the uniform. After great grilled burgers and grilled corn by Chef (Capt.) Ryan Jones, The cadets also completed a physical fitness test composed of pushups, sit-ups and a one-mile run. The course is the first of its type held in western South Dakota. Crazy Horse Composite Squadron sent one cadet and Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron sent one cadet. C/Lt Doyle also came from Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron and played a key role as instructor for a portion of the day. He was a huge help with teaching. The course is designed to help our newest cadets earn their first stripe and the Curry Award. In total the course resulted in 10 cadets receiving their first stripe. It was a very successful day, the new cadets left for home at the end of the day more motivated than ever about CAP. See the Cadet Airman Promotions section below for the names of our squadron’s six new Cadet Airmen.

As a special bonus at the end of the day, Cadets Bentley, Mckeehan, Spence and Helgeland all got to fly in their first CAP orientation flights, thanks to pilots Col. Mike Beason and Lt. Col. Gary Hewett.

![Figure 102 – Wing Great Start Class](image1)
![Figure 103 – Wing Great Start First Formation](image2)
![Figure 104 – Wing Great Start O-Rides](image3)

- **COLOR GUARD**: On 26 September, the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron Color Guard performed at the Sioux Falls Special Olympics Truck Convoy. The World's Largest Truck Convoy is held annually in September. Drivers from across the state drive their big rigs on a route circling Sioux Falls in an effort to raise money and public awareness for the Special Olympics. Many drivers are accompanied by Special Olympics athletes during this trek. After the convoy, drivers and athletes were joined by family members, friends and law enforcement personnel for lunch, entertainment, an auction, and a presentation of awards.

![Figure 105 – Sioux Falls Composite Squadron Color Guard](image4)
OCTOBER 2015

- **CYBERPATRIOT-VIII**: The Air Force Association announced that the 2015-2016 CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Defense Competition has registered 3,379 teams representing all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, US Virgin Islands, Canada, and Department of Defense Dependent schools in Germany, the United Kingdom, Japan, and South Korea. This marks a 55% increase in team registrations from last season’s CyberPatriot-VII.

Beginning with a practice round this month, the CyberPatriot-VIII teams will compete from their home locations in a series of online qualifying rounds that challenge them to find and fix security vulnerabilities in a variety of simulated networks. The top teams from the online rounds will travel all-expenses-paid to Baltimore, Md., for the CyberPatriot-VIII National Finals Competition April 10-14, 2016.

The Big Sioux Composite Squadron (Brookings) will have one team competing in this year’s CyberPatriot-VIII competition. “Team Big Sioux” has enjoyed success at the national level in all four years that they have competed. Last year they placed second in the nation. In addition, they were the top CAP team in the competition. This year they compete against 1,280 teams in the All-Services Division, 447 of them CAP teams.

Their Team Big Sioux roster will be completed by the 6 November deadline. This year’s team will be mentored by C/Lt Col Joshua Klosterman and coached by C/Maj Tyler Gross. The Team Captain is C/Lt Jaden Petersen.

- **SURVIVAL TRAINING**: On 3 October, nine cadets and Maj. Craig Goodrich and Capt. Ryan Jones of Rushmore Composite Squadron went into the Black Hills to learn how to bivouac and for some survival training. Unfortunately, it turned out to be a cold, rainy weekend, so instead of camping in Black Hills National Forest as planned, we asked for help from Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer. The commander gave us a warm, dry section of floor to sleep on. The cadets learned land navigation skills, how to use a compass, how to start a fire (in the rain) and even got to practice some drill movements under the direction of C/SSgt Noah Misselt. Mostly they just had a good time getting to know each other while out for the weekend. All but one cadet joined our squadron just last month.

Figure 106 – Rushmore Composite Squadron Survival Training

Congratulations to Cadet Lieutenants Bradley Blansett and Justin Harris, both of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron in Spearfish, who completed the requirements for certification as a Ground Team Leader!
NOVEMBER 2015

- **CYBERPATRIOT UPDATE**: The Big Sioux Composite Squadron is participating in this year’s CyberPatriot, the premier National Youth Cyber Defense Competition. “Team Big Sioux” has enjoyed success at the national level in all four years that we have competed. Last year we placed second in the nation and were the top CAP team in the competition.

This year we will field two teams in CyberPatriot-VIII’s All-Services Division. They will compete against 1,280 teams, 447 of them CAP teams. The All-Services Division consists of teams from the Civil Air Patrol, Naval Sea Cadet Corps, and Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps Junior ROTC.

CyberPatriot teams compete from their home locations in a series of online qualifying rounds that challenge them to find and fix security vulnerabilities in a variety of simulated networks. This year’s Round One took place on 14 November. Teams race against the clock - those who successfully finish with the fastest time advance to the next Round. Round Two will take place 4-6 December. The top teams from the online rounds receive all-expenses-paid to Baltimore, Md., for the National Finals Competition 10-14 April 2016.

Big Sioux’s Team-1 members are: C/Lt. Jaden Petersen of Brookings, SD (Team Captain), C/CMSgt. Graham Dinnel of Lake Benton, MN, C/MSgt. Andrew Toft of Elkton, SD, C/A1C Andrew Sweebe of Brookings, SD, C/Amn Peter Engels of Minneota, MN and Byron Hawk Bear of Flandreau, SD (Alternate). The team will be mentored by C/Lt. Col. Joshua Klosterman and coached by C/Maj. Tyler Gross, both veteran CyberPatriot competitors.

![Team Big Sioux CyberPatriot-VIII Practice](image1)
![Team Big Sioux CyberPatriot-VIII Round Two](image2)

- **NATIONAL CADET COMPETITION**: Big Sioux Composite Squadron been selected as one of two teams from the North Central Region to compete in the National Cadet Competition (NCC) from 29 Dec 15 to 2 Jan 16 at CAP NHQ at Maxwell AFB, Ala.

- **COLOR GUARD**: The Big Sioux Composite Squadron provided a Color Guard for the local chapter of the VFW on Veterans Day.
• **COLOR GUARD:** The Crazy Horse Composite Squadron provided a Color Guard for Veterans Day ceremonies held at the Custer High School. Our cadets looked sharp, performed superbly and were a very positive example of all that Civil Air Patrol stands for. Members of the Color Guard were C/Lt Jason Parry, C/Amn Ethan Updike, C/CMSgt Thomas Dillon, C/T Sgt Kyle Stiffarm, C/A1c Hunter Rice.

- **Figure 109** – Crazy Horse Composite Squadron Color Guard
- **Figure 110** – Crazy Horse Composite Squadron Color Guard in Action

• **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA:** The Crazy Horse Composite Squadron has been busy seeking donations for the Wreaths Across America program. We will conduct a wreath laying ceremony at Hot Springs National Cemetery on 12 December.

- **Figure 111** – Crazy Horse Composite Squadron seeking WAA Donations

• **GREAT START:** Ten members turned out for a Cadet Great Start program on 21 November at Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron under the supervision of Maj Bill Collister. After completing Great Start the new cadets worked on their GES qualification to prepare to become ground team members. All profited from the day's program before enjoying lunch at Pizza Ranch.
GTM1 QUALS: The Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron has begun a push to get all Ground Search Team cadet members to upgrade their qualifications to the GTM1 level. On 21 November, seasoned cadets, worked with Maj. David Small and new Senior Member Cyndy Collister on ground team quals. The squadron takes great pride in the high degree of skill and professionalism of its Ground Search Teams, a critical component of SDWG’s Emergency Services support to local law enforcement and first responders in the rugged Black Hills area.

Figure 112 – Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron Ground Team Works a Mission

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA: The Rushmore Composite Squadron has been working hard to sell as many wreaths as we can. We’ve set up a table for wreath sponsorship sales at the Family Thrift Center, the Rushmore Mall, Sam’s Club, and at the Rush Hockey Game. We’ve also helped out the Rush Foundation by selling 50/50 raffle tickets for them at Rush Hockey games. We hope to get a donation from the foundation for our help. We will be placing wreaths on veterans’ graves at Black Hills National Cemetery on 12 December.

Figure 113 – Rushmore Composite Squadron seeks WAA Donations
Figure 114 – Rushmore Composite Squadron on Local TV seeking WAA Donations
PARADE OF LIGHTS: Twenty-One South Dakota Wing members provided crowd control for Sioux Falls’ 24th Parade of Lights on 27 November. The annual parade with dazzling lighted holiday floats, music, dancers and Santa is the official start to the downtown holiday season. CAP’s contingent was made up of 11 cadets and one Senior from Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, seven cadets and one Senior from Big Sioux Composite Squadron, and even one Senior from Rushmore Composite Squadron. The horde of always-hungry cadets were treated to pizza beforehand and then patrolled parade line of march down Philips Avenue keeping people, especially little parade goers, out of harm’s way. Photo credit – Elisha Page/Argus Leader.

Figure 115 – Two CAP Members in reflective vests walk next to a vehicle during the parade

DECEMBER 2015

CYBERPATRIOT UPDATE: The Big Sioux Composite Squadron is participating in CyberPatriot, the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition. We are competing in CyberPatriot-VIII’s All-Services Division against 1,280 teams, 447 of them CAP teams. The All-Services Division consists of teams from the Civil Air Patrol, Naval Sea Cadet Corps, and Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps Junior ROTC.

CyberPatriot teams compete from their home locations in a series of online qualifying rounds that challenge them to find and fix security vulnerabilities in a variety of simulated networks. This year’s Round Two took place on 6 December. Teams race against the clock - those who successfully finish with the fastest time advance to the next Round. Round 3, the state round, will take place on 31 January 2016. Team Big Sioux’s members are: C/Lt Jaden Petersen (Brookings) (Team Captain), C/CMSgt. Graham Dinnel (Lake Benton, MN), C/MSgt. Andrew Toft (Elkton), C/A1C Andrew Sweebe (Brookings) and C/Amm Peter Engels (Minneota, MN).
**NATIONAL CADET COMPETITION:** Ninety-six cadets from across America gathered at Maxwell AFB in Alabama from 30 December to 2 January for the 2015 National Cadet Competition. The team of cadets from Big Sioux Composite Squadron consisted of: C/Lt Christopher Dinnel and C/CMSgt Graham Dinnel from Lake Benton, MN; C/Lt Jaden Petersen and C/A1C Andrew Sweebe from Brookings; and Cadet Master Sgt. Andrew Toft of Elkton, SD. They are joined by C/Lt Jaden Roblewsky from Sioux Falls Composite Squadron. They were supervised by Lt Josh Hartelt of Brookings, a member of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron and Maj Nicholas Gengler of Beresford, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron. The cadets demonstrated skills that included indoor and outdoor color guard challenges, a written test of leadership and aerospace knowledge, a Jeopardy!-style CAP knowledge game, physical fitness test, an obstacle course-like fitness challenge, public speaking, model rocketry, team leadership problems (group problem solving challenges) and a uniform inspection.

**WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA:** The Big Sioux Composite Squadron's Wreaths Across America ceremony took place at the Brookings Greenwood Cemetery with members from the Brookings VFW George Dokken Post #2118 present and participating in the ceremonial wreath laying. Cadet Major Gross presented the speech while the color guard presented the colors. The ceremony was done very professionally. Brookings community members complimented our cadets and assisted in laying some of the wreaths. Photo by Ms. Wanda Mix, VFW.
• **PARADE OF LIGHTS:** The Crazy Horse Composite Squadron entered a float in the 24th Annual Custer Christmas Parade on 5 December. This annual parade of lights signals the kick-off of the holiday season in the Southern Black Hills. After the parade, Santa and Mrs. Claus appeared at Way Park for the Memorial Tree Lighting Ceremony. The Crazy Horse Composite Squadron’s float represented a Civil Air Patrol plane conducting a simulated search and rescue mission. Our eco-friendly aircraft was made of recycled white coolers.

![Crazy Horse Composite Squadron float in Custer’s Parade of Lights](image1)

• **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA:** The Crazy Horse Composite Squadron along with the Battle Mountain American Legion Post #71 from Hot Springs conducted the Wreaths Across America Ceremony at the Hot Springs National Cemetery at Hot Springs, SD.

![Crazy Horse Composite Squadron at WAA Ceremony](image2)

• **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA:** Seniors and cadets from the Rushmore Composite Squadron participated in the Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Black Hills National Cemetery near Sturgis, SD. In the left photo the squadron contingent. In the right photo a cadet honoring a veteran.
**WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**: Members of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron participated in the Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Hills of Rest Memorial Park in Sioux Falls on 12 December. Lt. Col. Tim Steppan acted as Master of Ceremonies and later blew taps. The Color Guard performed and senior members represented the uniformed services in the ceremony honoring all service members. Later assistance was provided to organizations laying wreaths on veterans’ graves.
CHAPTER V – CADET ORIENTATION FLIGHTS

MARCH 2015

- On 20 March, C/Maj Brandon West of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron supervised by Lt. Col. Greg Lair successfully completed an initial check ride in a CAP Cessna-172. Per CAPR 60-1, *CAP Flight Management*, para 3-1, a successfully completed Flight Evaluation denotes qualification to fly a particular model of CAP aircraft. A check ride consists of ground and flight evaluations. Brandon is now qualified to fly a CAP Cessna-172 alone or take up senior members. Further laurels - he successfully checked out in a CAP Cessna-182 about eight months ago.

Figure 125 – Lt Col Lair congratulates C/Maj West following check ride in a CAP Cessna-172

MAY 2015

- On 9 May, Capt. Neil Schmid of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron took C/Amn Oscar Holmberg and C/A1C Chris Schuppan aloft on an orientation flight to the Mitchell Municipal Airport, about 75 miles west of Sioux Falls.

Oscar was at the controls for the sortie to Mitchell. Then they landed so Chris could move to the co-pilot’s seat. Chris was at the controls for the sortie back to Sioux Falls.

It is believed that this was a milestone for Capt. Schmid - his 50th Cadet Orientation flight!

Figure 126 – Capt Neil Schmid and Cadets Oscar Holmberg and Chris Schuppan
Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings was pleased to have been able to conduct cadet orientation flights in September. C/A1C Darin Burke and C/Amn Andrew Sweebe were each able to fly twice in September.

Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer hosted the SDWG Mountain Fury Course. Many pilots got some awesome air time and they were even gracious enough to give four of our cadets a feel for the air. For C/SrA Anthony Dillon, C/SMSgt Thomas Dillon, C/A1C Hunter Rice, and C/AB Updike it was a thrill of a lifetime. They thought the landings were pretty cool as they were bumpy and a lot of fun. Two cadets did take the controls and thought it was pretty sweet, the other two decided to wait until next time as it was their first time in a plane.

On 26 September, new CAP cadets from all three west-river squadrons joined together at the Rushmore Composite Squadron for a Great Start clinic. As a special bonus at the end of the day, Cadets Bentley, Mckeehan, Spence and Helgeland all got to fly in their first CAP orientation flights thanks to pilots Col. Mike Beason and Lt. Col. Gary Hewett.
OCTOBER 2015

- It was a great day for flying for the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on Saturday, 17 October. A fortuitous confluence of events led to the availability of two Sioux Falls based SDWG aircraft, a MNWG glider, six cadets and several senior members for a day of powered orientation flights and gliding over the Mankato Minnesota countryside.

Getting from Sioux Falls to Mankato was half the fun. Lt. Jerry Hayden was pilot in command and orientation pilot for Cadet Kyle Clement, with Cadets Taylor Moyer and Kyle Kreger as backseaters in the squadron’s new Cessna-172 “GlassHawk”. Capt. Neil Schmid piloted the squadron’s Cessna-182 G1000 equipped aircraft and was the orientation pilot for Cadet Nick Nash. This was Nash’s final powered orientation flight, which covered aviation topics such as weather, compensating for wind by crabbing, wake turbulence avoidance, and how climb rate is affected by temperate and altitude. Back seat flyers were Cadets Max Moline and Robert Boecker.

After the crews landed at Mankato, an initial introduction to gliders was given by MNWG Maj. Carl Hallum. After pre-flight checks the glider was moved to Mankato’s long grass runway. Then the Cessna-172 tow-plane underwent pre-flight checks. This was Capt. Schmid’s first time as a tow-pilot trainee and at the conclusion of seven glider tows he was getting the hang of it.

The gliders were towed to an altitude of 2,500 feet and released. The glider remained aloft for about 15 minutes for each flight. The glider was flown by orientation pilot MNWG Capt. William Pagel and he successfully mentored SDWG Cadets Kreger (glider flight #3), Moyer (glider flight #1), Boecker (glider flight #1), Clement (glider flight #1 & 2), Moline (glider flight #1), and Nash (glider flight #3).

On the way home, Lt. Hayden piloted the Cessna-182 with Cadet Boecker at the controls and Capt. Schmid piloted the Cessna-172 with Cadet Moyer receiving his third powered flight experience. Everyone was smiling at the end of the day with the great experience of flight.

Figure 129 – Sioux Falls Composite Squadron o-ride crews
MANKATO GLIDER FLIGHT OPERATIONS

Figure 130 – Capt Neil Schmid with C/Lt Nick Nash at the controls

Figure 131 – CAP glider and CAP tow plane going aloft

Figure 132 – CAP Glider coming in for a landing
Figure 133 – View from the CAP glider cockpit

Figure 134 – Preflight check on the CAP glider
CHAPTER VI – OTHER NOTABLE EVENTS

JANUARY 2015

- **REDCAP** AFRCC Mission 15-M-0016: Early on 10 January, the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Tyndall AFB, Florida notified the South Dakota Wing that the Lawrence County Office of Emergency Management requested CAP assistance in the search for a missing person in the rugged, heavily forested hills near Spearfish. A Rapid City-based Cessna-182T aircraft was used for the search. The aircrew consisted of Lt Col Gary Hewett (Mission Pilot), Capt Joshua Hall (Mission Observer) and Maj David Small, Jr. (Mission Scanner). The Incident Commander was J.D. Guigoe of Lawrence County OEM. Col John Seten coordinated the CAP activity. The individual was found alive and all CAP assets were stood down.

- **CYBERPATRIOT UPDATE**: Big Sioux Composite Squadron’s “Team Big Sioux” cadet cybersecurity team is heading to the national finals of the CyberPatriot competition for the fourth year in a row! To earn the all-expenses-paid trip the cadet cyber-sleuths placed first in regional round of the competition. The national finals of the CyberPatriot-VII competition will be in March in Washington, D.C. In the finals, the only in-person round, the team will compete to defend virtual networks and mobile devices from a professional aggressor team. The finalists will also face-off in three additional competition components: Digital Cyber Crime Scene Challenge, Cisco Networking Challenge, and Digital Forensics Challenge. These extra challenges broaden the cybersecurity experience and expose teams to new elements of the many career opportunities available to them. The team will be scored on how quickly and effectively they establish and maintain secure networks.

Team Big Sioux consists of Team Captain C/Maj Joshua Klosterman of Brandon, C/2nd Lt Chris Dinnel, C/SMSgt Jaden Petersen, C/SSgt Sergeant Nathaniel Fleet, all from Lake Benton, MN, and C/2nd Lt Laura Rudnik of Brookings. The team is coached by Capt Shannon Hofer of Hendricks, MN and mentored by Cadet Captain Tyler Gross of Volga.
**AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEY:** SDWG flew Mission #15-C-5673 Aerial Wildlife Survey on seven days in January in support of the state Department of Game, Fish & Parks and South Dakota State University. GF&P surveys deer, goats, mountain lions, and elk while SDSU surveys elk and bobcats. The result was 21.5 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. The CAP pilot for the flights was Lt Col Gary Hewett. Depending on whom the sortie supported he was accompanied by either Mr. Brandon Tycz or Ms. Sarah Nevison from SDSU (19.5 flying hours) or Ms. Lauren Wiechmann from GF&P (2 flying hours). During the 27 January mission 26 bobcats were located over an area from Rapid City toward Faith, to east of Bison, to north of Spearfish. Mr. Tycz, the SDSU tracker who flies with CAP, with a bobcat he trapped. The bobcat is sedated.

![Figure 136 – Captured bobcat awaits attachment of a radio tracking collar](image1)
![Figure 137 – Mr. Tycz holds bobcat before attaching a radio tracking collar](image2)

**WING SPLIT SAREX:** SDWG’s first SAREX for 2015 was on 24 January. The focus was on training aircrews, ground search teams and command staffs through realistic search and rescue scenarios that mirror CAP’s real-world activity. All five of the Wing’s aircraft, six vehicles and 75 officers and cadets took part in the training exercise.

In the West River area an Incident Command Post was set up at the headquarters of the Rushmore Composite Squadron on Ellsworth AFB. Three CAP aircraft flew search and rescue sorties from the squadron’s hangar at the Rapid City Regional airport. In addition, one ground search team operated from the squadron headquarters conducting independent but similar training exercises as the aircraft.

In the East River area, a Staging Base was set up at the headquarters of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron at the Brookings Airport. Big Sioux’s personnel were joined by aircraft, vehicles and personnel from the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron. Under the control of Incident Commander Col Mike Beason at Ellsworth AFB two CAP aircraft and two ground teams conducted training exercises similar to those in the West River area.

The Split SAREX was a chance to work with Wing units that don’t often have the opportunity to train together with massed assets. The benefit from training such as this is teamwork, the
coordination between command staff, aircrews and ground teams. In addition, a great deal of individual skills training was also accomplished.

Figure 138 - Two aircrew members plan for their flight
Figure 139 - Cadet ground team member trains with new radio-detection-finding equipment
Figure 140 - Cadet radio operators maintain contact with aircraft and ground teams

**FEBRUARY 2015**

- **LEGISLATIVE DAY**: 11 February was SDWG’s “Legislative Day”. Some 50 members representing five of our squadrons converged on the state capitol. The CAP officers and cadets met with Gov. Daugaard and posed with him on the staircase of the Capitol Rotunda. Afterwards the SDWG members attended legislative sessions of the House and Senate where they received special recognition when legislators of both houses gave the CAP members a standing ovation.

During the afternoon break in the legislative sessions CAP hosted a snack for the legislators. Lt Kuecker arranged for cupcakes decorated with CAP insignia. While mingling with the legislators the officers and cadets handed out informational materials about SDWG and CAP and spoke with them about Civil Air Patrol and what CAP’s South Dakota Wing does for communities, counties and the state.

Figure 141 - SD Governor poses with SDWG contingent on Rotunda staircase
- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEY**: SDWG flew Mission #15-C-6373 Aerial Wildlife Survey on six days in February in support of the state Department of Game, Fish & Parks and South Dakota State University. GF&P surveys deer, goats, mountain lions, and elk while SDSU surveys elk and bobcats. The result was 24.6 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. The CAP pilot for the flights was Lt Col Gary Hewett. Depending on whom the sortie supported he was accompanied by Brandon Tycz or Sarah Nevison or Adam Kauth from SDSU (21.2 flying hours) or Lauren Wiechmann from GF&P (2.3 flying hours).

**MARCH 2015**

- **CYBERPATRIOT RESULTS**: The cadet cyber-security team of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron won second place in the national finals of the Air Force Association’s seventh annual CyberPatriot Competition held in Washington, D.C. from 11-15 March. In addition, they were the top Civil Air Patrol team in the competition.

The team from Brookings competed in the “All Service Division” national finals for the fourth year in a row against teams from the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Junior ROTC programs, the Naval Sea Cadet Corps and the Civil Air Patrol. In CyberPatriot-VII 1,007 teams competed in the All Services Division, 400 teams from CAP units. Only the top two teams from each organization in the All Services Division got to go to the national finals. “We are extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Big Sioux squadron in their pursuit of being the top team in the competition. A lot of hard work and dedication goes into preparation for this competition and to be the top Civil Air Patrol team in the nation is no easy feat.” Said Colonel John Seten, the Wing Commander of the South Dakota Civil Air Patrol.

In the national finals 28 teams, 13 from the All Service Division, competed to defend virtual networks and mobile devices from a professional aggressor team. The national finalists also faced off in four additional competition components: the Digital Cyber Crime Scene Challenge from the Digital Forensic Consortium, the Cisco Networking Challenge, the Leidos Digital Forensics Challenge and a Mobile Application Challenge hosted by AT&T. The teams were scored on how quickly and effectively they established and maintained secure networks.

Team Big Sioux consists of Team Captain C/Maj Joshua Klosterman of Brandon, C/2nd Lt Chris Dinnel, C/CMSgt Jaden Petersen and C/TSGt Nathaniel Fleet, all from Lake Benton, MN, and C/2nd Lt Laura Rudnik of Brookings. The team is coached by Capt Shannon Hofer of Hendricks, MN, who is the Big Sioux Composite Squadron commander as well as the South Dakota Wing's Director of Information Technology and Web Security Administrator and mentored by Cadet Captain Tyler Gross of Volga.

CyberPatriot VII began last October with more than 2,100 teams from all 50 states, Canada and Department of Defense dependent schools in Europe and the Pacific. After two months of rigorous online challenges, the Open Division and All Service Division teams were divided into three tiers: Platinum, Gold and Silver. Team Big Sioux was placed in the Platinum Tier. The teams continued to compete within their tiers for state awards and advancement to the regional/category round. Only teams in the top Platinum tier were eligible to advance to national finals competition.
PIERRE SAREX: SDWG conducted a Search and Rescue Exercise in Pierre 20-22 March. It focused on training aircrews, ground search teams and command staff to react to an emergency services situation. It tested their ability to plan, coordinate and conduct missions based on realistic training scenarios that mirror the CAP’s real-world activity. Four of the Wing’s aircraft, several vehicles and some 40 officers and cadets took part. A Mission Base was set up at the Mustang Aviation Facility at Pierre Regional Airport. The aircraft flew sorties searching for a simulated crashed aircraft crash (ELT search) and carried out a photo survey of ice jams on the Missouri River south of Pierre. Three Ground Search Teams conducted similar training exercises.

SAREXs such as this give participants the opportunity to work with other SDWG units that don’t often have the chance to train together with massed assets. For the Pierre SAREX there were participants from five squadrons present. In addition, there were two observers present from the CAP-USAF North Central Liaison Region, Lt Col Jeff Meyers and Mr. Greg Meyer, the Director and Assistant Director of Operations respectively. Lt Col Meyers complimented everyone for their training, communication and ability to self-critique at the after action review. The principal benefit of training such as this is teamwork; the coordination between command staff, aircrews and ground teams. In addition, a great deal of individual skills training was accomplished.

SDWG thanks Mustang Aviation of Pierre for use of their state of the art facility for the SAREX.
• **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEY**: SDWG flew Mission #15-C-6880 Aerial Wildlife Survey on 5 days in March in support of the state Department of Game, Fish & Parks and South Dakota State University. GF&P surveys deer, goats, mountain lions, and elk while SDSU surveys elk, bobcats and big horn sheep. The result was 21.7 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. The CAP pilot for one of the flights was Maj Craig Goodrich, the rest were flown by Lt Col Gary Hewett. Depending on whom the sortie supported he was accompanied either by representatives from SDSU or from Game, Fish & Parks.

• **SDWG ON SDPB-TV**: 29 March was a special day for SDWG. That afternoon several members of the wing were interviewed on camera by a crew from South Dakota Public Broadcasting for the television program “Dakota Life”. Paul Ebsen, an associate producer from SDPB is very enthusiastic about CAP and interested in our Wing’s history. Wing Commander Col John Seten addressed CAP’s aviation, missions, funding, and history. Wing Chaplain Lt Col Gary Rae, dressed in WWII-era CAP uniform, addressed CAP’s WWII history and current cadet programs. He also built a large scale replica of a J-3 that CAP used during its wartime sub-chasing missions that he brought to display. In addition, Chaplain Rae spoke about his dad, John "Jack" Rae, who was a WWII era CAP member in Pennsylvania and who will posthumously receive a Congressional Gold Medal from Rep. Kristi Noem at the wing conference in April. Capt Neil Schmid, of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron also addressed aviation and CAP operations. Wing Historian and Government Relations Advisor Maj Todd Epp who arranged and coordinated the event also spoke about the history of the CAP and of the South Dakota Wing. The Sioux Falls based Cessna-172 and “glass cockpit” Cessna-182 were in the hangar for filming. Later Maj Todd Epp commented, “This is a great opportunity for the Wing to get some excellent exposure and celebrate what we have done and what we do.” The segment SDPB shot
in Sioux Falls is scheduled to air on *Dakota Life* at 8 p.m. CT Thursday on SDPB-1. It will also be available online at [sdpb.org](http://sdpb.org).

Figure 146 – Colonel Seten on SDPB-TV
Figure 147 – Chaplain (Lt Col) Rae on SDPB-TV
Figure 148 – Captain Schmid on SDPB-TV

- **CORSON BURN**: On 26 March, Col Seten learned that what was supposed to have been a controlled burn of lumber from a dismantled grain elevator in Corson had gotten out of control and spread. Having decided to take photos of the fire from the air that SDWG would share with local responders he went to our hangar at the Sioux Falls airport and took one of the Wing’s aircraft aloft. On landing he uploaded the photos and made them available to the local media. In addition, he sent the photos to all of the fire chiefs in Minnehaha County along with a note about the services SDWG can provide and how to task us in the event of need.

Figure 149 – Corson out-of-control burn
• **CUSTER TRADE SHOW:** Squadron members of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron served as welcomers/greeters at the Custer Area Chamber of Commerce Trade Show on 7 March at Custer High School. The show hosted a variety of exhibitors ranging from financial services and building materials to jewelry and artwork. Some of the visitors were interested in learning more about CAP and others congratulated us for great efforts that they read about in the paper.

![Figure 150 – Crazy Horse Composite Squadron members at Custer Trade Show](image)

• **SPEARFISH HOME SHOW:** Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron members had a booth at the Optimist Club-sponsored Home Show and Health Fair held at Black Hills State University in Spearfish on 7/8 March. In the huge Young Center Field House, flanked by trade representatives and vendors, and civic groups, the squadron staffed an information booth for the erudition of the thousands of attendees. Spearheading the undertaking was Capt Bill Collister with Lt Col Buck DeWeese and Lt Col Jim Hopewell furnishing support and adjunct staffing. Multimedia displays, model rockets and aircraft, and static displays of R/C UAV’s bedecked the booth, along with printed informational brochures. The display attracted a number of inquiries about CAP from adult guests, many accompanied by cadet-age-eligible relatives.

![Figure 151 – Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron booth at Spearfish Home Show](image)
**KINGSWOOD BLITZ:** On Saturday, the 14th of March, in a fund-raising event, members of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron caravanned to the west side of Sioux Falls to deliver Kingswood Rummage Sale packets. On arrival we picked up 1,800 packets and distributed them to each door in the assigned neighborhoods within a four hour period. The Kingswood Rummage Sale is the largest organized rummage sale in South Dakota. Each year this four-day event is held in April. Some 300-350 rummage sales are held in Kingswood area homes in this event. The squadron receives a donation from the Kingswood Rummage Committee for delivering packets.

![Figure 152 – Sioux Falls Composite Squadron Kingswood contingent](image1)

![Figure 153 – Kingswood activity briefing and packet handout](image2)

**AVIATION MILESTONE:** CAP pilot Lt Col Greg Lair of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron achieved a significant aviation milestone. In his day job, he is USAF Col Lair, Operations Group Chief of the 114th Fighter Wing of the SDANG. On 11 March he completed 3,000 career flight hours in the F-16 Fighting Falcon after a training sortie at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls. Upon landing he was met by family, friends and his SDANG colleagues who congratulated him. Firefighters from the 114th Fighter Wing gave him a traditional “wetting down”, spraying him with water from their fire trucks. According to the 114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office so far only 260 military pilots have reached 3,000 hours in the F-16 fighter.

“The South Dakota Wing of the Civil Air Patrol is honored to have Lt Col Lair as a member. His experience as an Air Force pilot is of great value to our organization.” said Colonel John Seten the Wing Commander for the SD Civil Air Patrol.

When not on duty with the South Dakota Air National Guard or flying for the Civil Air Patrol, Greg Lair is a pilot for United Airlines.

![Figure 154 - Col (CAP Lt Col) Lair (right) is congratulated after landing](image3)
• **REDCAP** AFRCC Mission 15-M-0154: The Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Tyndall AFB, FL, placed South Dakota Wing on alert late in the evening on Easter Sunday. AFRCC had received multiple reports from aircraft over the Sioux Falls area of an Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) active. The aircraft hear the signal when coming in to Sioux Falls, but do not hear it when they are on the ground. The geographic area encompasses the tri-border area of southeast South Dakota, southwest Minnesota and northwest Iowa.

A Sioux Falls based Cessna-182/G1000, with an aircrew of Mission Pilot Lt Jerald Hayden, Capt Karla West (MO) and SSgt. David Stockinger (MS), took off and began executing an expanding circle search pattern. Shortly after takeoff the aircraft’s radio-direction-finding sensor picked up the ELT’s signal. Through analysis the aircraft crew determined the signal was coming from vicinity of Larchwood, IA.

In addition to the aircraft, two ground search teams were dispatched: one from Sioux Falls under command of Capt Karen Espeland with C/Lt Nicholas Nash, C/Capt Nicole Schneider and C/Maj Brandon West; the other from Brookings under command of Lt Thomas Delany, with SM Josh Hartelt, C/Lt Col Joshua Klosterman and C/Lt Laura Rudnik.

The signal was pinpointed as coming from the Zangger Vintage Airpark which is about two miles east of Larchwood. The airpark manager was contacted and he stated that one of the aircraft there had experienced a hard landing that must have caused the beacon to activate. The airpark manager went to the aircraft and silenced the ELT.

• **MG VAZQUEZ VISIT**: National Commander, Major General Joseph Vazquez, paid a visit to Sioux Falls on 12 April to meet with members of SDWG. Accompanying him was his wife, CAP Lt Col Leslie Vazquez, Civil Air Patrol’s Aviation Industry Liaison. He briefed the attendees on upcoming/proposed organizational changes, operational issues, on closer relations with the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, and the effort to make CAP’s data interfaces more user-friendly. At the end he took questions from Wing members. SDWG Commander Col Seten commented, “What a great opportunity for our members to hear the way ahead from the top, while we give leadership the view from the field. We really appreciate this visit.” Maj Gen. Vazquez assumed command at a formal ceremony at CAP’s 2014 National Conference.

![Figure 155 – Gen Vazquez in Sioux Falls with attendees](image1)
![Figure 156 – Gen Vazquez in Sioux Falls speaks to attendees](image2)
- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEY**: SDWG flew Mission #15-C-7501 Aerial Wildlife Survey over eight days in April in support of the state Department of Game, Fish & Parks and South Dakota State University. GF&P surveys deer, goats, mountain lions, and elk while SDSU surveys elk, bobcats and big horn sheep. The result was 31.4 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. The CAP pilot for six sorties was Lt Col Gary Hewett; the other four sorties were flown by Lt Col Buck DeWeese. Depending on whom the sortie supported he was accompanied by one or more representatives from SDSU or from Game, Fish & Parks.

- **2015 WING CONFERENCE**: South Dakota Wing held its 2015 Wing Conference on 18 April at the Clubhouse Hotel and Suites in Pierre. About 85 officers and cadets from SDWG attended. Distinguished visitors were: North Central Region Commander, Col Robert Todd; Nebraska Wing Commander Col Darrell Nelson; Lt Col Bonnie Braun, NCR DDR Coordinator; Lt Col Don Barbalace, NHQ IG Team; and Capt Chuck Brudtkuhl, NHQ Communications Team/IAWG Director of Communications.

  The first part of the morning was a general session with wing staff officers and squadron commanders making presentations. The highlight of the morning was a skit titled “Daddy’s Girl” performed by cadets, under the supervision of Lt Col Buechler, on the consequences of drunk driving. Following the general session the senior member participants split up to attend breakout sessions on a variety of administrative and operational issues. The cadets attended breakout sessions on DDR, AE, and the National Cadet Competition. In addition, the Wing Cadet Advisory Council met. The senior member and cadet breakout sessions lasted until the late afternoon when it was time to begin to prepare for the evening’s banquet and awards ceremony.

  The guest speaker at the banquet was South Dakota Congresswoman Kristi Noem. Highlights of the banquet were presentation of the CAP Congressional Gold Medal to Wing Chaplain Lt Col Gary Rae, the son of WWII CAP veteran John Gibson “Jack” Rae Jr, and presentation of CAP membership credentials to Ms. Noem. In addition, a number of wing, squadron and individual awards were presented (see last page for award recipients).

![Figure 157](image1.png)  
**Figure 157** – U.S. Rep. Noem presents CGM to Chaplain Rae to honor his father  
![Figure 158](image2.png)  
**Figure 158** – U.S. Rep. Noem receiving her CAP credentials from Col Seten
EAGLE SCOUT: It is good to recognize that our members are involved in other activities. There are many good programs out there; one is the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). On April 25th, C/SSgt Peter Iverson, of the Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron, was honored by his local Scout Troop. He invited all of his squadron mates to enjoy a happy day with him as he was presented with the Eagle Scout award, the highest rank attainable in the BSA’s Boy Scouting program. This award takes years to earn through much hard work and perseverance. Peter joined the scouting program as a Cub Scout in Nebraska. He advanced through every stage of the program and “bridged over” from Webelos to Boy Scouting to continue his scouting career. A comparison to CAP’s cadet program would equate this to our Spaatz Award, the highest attainable level for youth in the CAP program. Neither Eagle Scout nor the Spaatz Award is common. Only the top few in each organization reach this level. We look forward to increased activity that he has pledged to CAP now that he has reached this goal. We are sure that CAP will benefit from his leadership abilities as well as his other knowledge that he brings to our program.

MAY 2015

DELMONTE TORNADO: On Sunday, 10 May, at 10:45 local time an EF-2 tornado with winds over 100mph roared through the small town of Delmont, located about 90 southwest of
Sioux Falls. The town of about 200 lost all power, water and telephone service. 84 structures in and around Delmont were damaged or destroyed. Fortunately there were no fatalities, however at least nine people were injured and some livestock were killed. Hardest hit was the western edge of the town suffering the majority of the damage. The town’s new fire hall and a Lutheran Church bore the brunt of the tornado’s fury. South Dakota Wing Commander Col John Seten authorized a Sioux Falls-based Civil Air Patrol Cessna-182/G1000 aircraft to fly over the area and take photos of the damage. An aerial photo sortie over Delmont was conducted on 12 May. The aircrew was Mission Pilot Col John Seten, Mission Observer Capt Neil Schmid, and Mission Scanner Capt Karla West. Nearly 200 high resolution photos were taken and provided to emergency management officials, first responders and the media.

Figure 161 – Wreckage of Delmont’s newly built fire hall
Figure 162 – Wreckage of Delmont Lutheran Church

- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEY**: SDWG flew Mission #15-C-8833 Aerial Wildlife Survey over four days in May for the state Department of Game, Fish & Parks and South Dakota State University. GF&P surveys deer, goats, mountain lions, and elk while SDSU surveys elk, bobcats and big horn sheep. The result was 21.8 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. The CAP pilot for five of the sorties was Lt Col Gary Hewett; one was flown by Lt Col Buck DeWeese and one by Maj Craig Goodrich. Depending on whom the sortie supported they were accompanied by one or more researchers from SDSU or from GF&P.

- **CUSTER SAREX**: Aircraft, vehicles and personnel from four SDWG’s squadrons and members and an aircraft from Nebraska Wing’s Pine Ridge Composite Squadron (Chadron, NE) gathered at the Custer County Airport for a Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) the weekend of 29-31 May. The goal of the exercise was to provide task-specific training for Civil Air Patrol members. Short, realistic scenarios were presented to the aircrews, ground teams and mission base staff members to work through. Aircrews searched for simulated aircraft emergency locator beacons, rehearsed search patterns, and took simulated damage assessment photos. Ground team personnel also searched for simulated aircraft emergency locator beacons and worked with Custer County Search and Rescue during a missing person scenario in which CAP ground teams searched for an actor in a forested area near the Custer County Airport.

According to Maj Craig Goodrich, Incident Commander for the exercise, “Thunderstorms on Friday and fog on Saturday morning did not stop the show. The aircrews and ground teams were ready to go Saturday when the weather cleared up and we got a large amount of training done.”
Thanks to the generosity of the First Baptist Church of Custer, CAP members were able to use Camp Volunteer next to the airport over the weekend. The camp was also used as a staging area for the ground teams during the exercise. SDWG also thanks Custer County Search and Rescue for their participation in this SAREX.

![Custer SAREX Flightline](image1)

**Figure 163** – Custer SAREX Flightline

![Custer SAREX Mission Base Operations](image2)

**Figure 164** – Custer SAREX Mission Base Operations

![Custer SAREX cadet barracks](image3)

**Figure 165** – Custer SAREX cadet barracks

![Custer SAREX Ground Team Arrives](image4)

**Figure 166** – Custer SAREX Ground Team Arrives

![Custer SAREX Ground Team mission briefing](image5)

**Figure 167** – Custer SAREX Ground Team mission briefing

- **CONSTANT WATCH 2015**: SDWG participated in CAP’s National Communications Exercise (COMEX) “Constant Watch 15” on 15 and 16 May. The exercise tests CAP’s ability to pass messages throughout the nation on high frequency (HF) radio. New this year was the relay of messages from HF stations to other units over very high frequency (VHF) radios. SDWG’s portion of the exercise was directed by Capt Jerry Gabert, Wing Director of Communications.

The exercise began the afternoon of 15 May. Capt Jerry Gabert and Lt Rob Hinkhouse checked in on an HF radio in Sioux Falls. Lt Todd Dravland checked in on his HF radio in Pierre. SM Jeff Shawd operated his HF radio in Valley Springs. He received several Whiskey Tango (numerically encoded) messages and entered them into the CAP computer system. Lt Col Dave
Jefferies was on the HF radio in his vehicle and took Whiskey Tango messages while supporting Red Cross disaster relief efforts after the tornado in Delmont.

Capt Gabert and Lt Hinkhouse were also busy on Friday night planning messages to send on Saturday. They made up a practice coder/decoder and then formulated several coded messages.

Saturday morning the exercise expanded to include an airborne radio signal repeater. The airborne repeater was in a Sioux Falls Composite Squadron Cessna-182 piloted by Capt Neil Schmid. Maj Elliott Filler was Mission Observer. The purpose was three-fold: first, to test the range of the VHF airborne repeater. The aircraft made contact with participating squadrons along the flight route; second, to test inter-squadron VHF radio links; and, third, to send encoded Whisky Tango messages by VHF for relay by the long range HF stations. Through the repeater communications were established from Sioux Falls to Brookings, Brookings to Valley Springs, Valley Springs to Sioux Falls, and from Pierre to Delmont. Practice Whiskey Tango messages were sent between Sioux Falls, Brookings and Valley Springs. The messages were then deciphered by the receiving station and verified by the sending station.

Participating on Saturday were Lt Col Mark Huntington, Lt Rob Hinkhouse, Capt Jerry Foy, Capt Jerry Gabert and Cadet Eric Ortega and C/Amn Oscar Holmberg at the Sioux Falls Mission Base, Capt Shannon Hofer, C/Lt Col Joshua Klosterman and C/Capt Tyler Gross at the Brookings Mission Base, Lt Col Tam Gatje and Lt Todd Dravland in Pierre, SM Jeff Shawd in Valley Springs and Lt Col Dave Jefferies in Delmont. Col John Seten and Lt Col Rick Larsen also were involved in the exercise.

Overall this was a very successful COMEX. Although thunderstorms hampered communications somewhat SDWG successfully checked in on the national HF net and passed traffic to or monitored traffic from all eight CAP USA regions, mostly from Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Idaho, Michigan and Washington Wings.

Thanks to all who participated. We hope to expand participation in Exercise Constant Watch exercise next year.

Figure 168 – Constant Watch Preparation for High Bird Flight
Figure 169 – Constant Watch Mission Base Radio Room
• **PIERRE MEMORIAL DAY:** Pierre Composite Squadron members Lt Col Lois Schmidt, Lt Col Tam Gatje, Lt Jon Becker and C/MSgt Hannah Becker participated in the Pierre citywide Memorial Day event. It was held at the Riggs Theater on Monday, May 25. Veterans of all branches of the United States Armed Forces were in attendance. A wreath was placed for each of the veteran’s organizations in attendance, including Civil Air Patrol. Father Michael Griffin was this year’s guest speaker. He was a Chaplain in the National Guard. Pierre’s Capital City Band provided the musical program that enhanced the ceremony. Lt Becker performed Taps, ending the program. In the photo Chaplain Griffin addresses the audience.

• **AFJROTC O-RIDES:** On 2 May, Col Mike Beason of the Rushmore Composite Squadron flew the second of three planned Flight Orientation Program (FOP) flights for Air Force Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (AFJROTC) cadets. Three cadets, C/MSgt Levi Beckwith, C/A1C Michael Hendricks and C/A1C Michael Swan from Douglas High School’s AFJROTC program in Box Elder went aloft. On 26 May, Lt Col Chuck Trumble flew the third of the three FOP flights. Three more cadets from Douglas High School’s Air Force JROTC program, C/SrA Tristan Fletcher, C/SrA Bryce Lambert and C/SrA Riley McMeekin went aloft. The first FOP flight was flown on 28 April by Maj Goodrich with AFJROTC C/SSgt Nick Kochutin and C/SrA Kevin Armstrong on board. In the photo (L-R) are AFJROTC C/A1C Hendricks, C/A1C Swan and C/MSgt Beckwith. SDWG looks forward to doing more of these flights in the future.
JUNE 2015

- **CGM PRESENTATION:** On 29 June, South Dakota U.S. Senator Mike Rounds presented a CAP Congressional Gold Medal to the family of the late Vernon Jeffries of Rapid City who was a pilot for the Civil Air Patrol during WWII. After the presentation Dave Jeffries, Vernon’s son, commented, "For many years, the CAP pilots of WWII, the whole air crew, the whole operation of WWII, was kind of buried in history. When it was happening, many people knew about it. After the war, many people forgot." Vernon Jeffries flew small single-engine, fabric covered aircraft off the coast of New Jersey during the war, trying to spot German U–Boats. They were civilian volunteers flying dangerous missions with the CAP. Also in attendance were the South Dakota Wing Commander Colonel John Seten and Vice Commander Lt Col Richard Larson as well as many other SD Wing members.

![Figure 172 – U.S. Sen. Rounds presents posthumous CAP CGM to son of Vernon Jeffries](image)

- **LOW-LEVEL ROUTE SURVEY:** Each year the SD Air National Guard requests SDWG carry out low-level route surveys (LLRS) of selected military aerial training routes and of aerial Military Operations Areas (MOA). These routes cover southeastern South Dakota, northwestern Iowa and northeastern Nebraska leading to and from the O’Neill and Lake Andes MOAs. The purpose of these sorties is to search for uncharted hazards such as antenna towers, changes to charted towers, and noise sensitive areas - stock pens/feedlots; areas to be avoided by low-flying military pilots. There are a vast number of them between Sioux City and Omaha.

Over the course of three days in June, SDWG flew six sorties for a total of 19 flight hours. A marathon LLRS was flown covering the Lake Andes MOA. The mission lasted eight hours and two new targets were observed. The aircrew consisted of Col Greg Lair (Mission Pilot), C/Maj Brandon West (Mission Observer), and Capt Karla West (Mission Scanner/Photographer). Wing Commander Col John Seten (Mission Pilot), Vice Commander Lt Col Rick Larson (Mission Observer) and SM Kevin Kayser (Mission Scanner photographer) also flew a route that went
from Iowa into Nebraska. When landing for fuel the aircrew was able to visit the powered flight academy that was taking place in Freemont, Ne.

When SDWG flies a LLRS, a command post is set up for C³ support for the aircraft. SDWG Capt Neil Schmid served as Incident Commander. Lt Jerry Hayden is this year’s Operations Section Chief and Capt Matt Meert is the Planning Coordinator.

**Figure 173** – Capt Schmid, Observer Maj Filler and Scanner Lt Many Steele

**Figure 174** – A LLRS in Northeastern Nebraska discovered a message, possibly for UFOs

- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEY**: SDWG flew Mission #15-C-9543 Aerial Wildlife Survey over seven days in June in support of the state Department of Game, Fish & Parks and South Dakota State University. GF&P surveys deer, goats, mountain lions, and elk while SDSU surveys elk, bobcats and big horn sheep. The result was 28.4 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. Two sorties were flown by Col Mike Beason, three by Capt Albert Trumble and four by Maj Craig Goodrich. Depending on whom the sortie supported they were accompanied by one or more representatives from SDSU or from Game, Fish & Parks.

- **NATIONAL DDR AWARD**: Lt Col Linda Buechler, SDWG’s Director of Cadet Programs, Drug Demand Reduction Administrator, and Health Programs Officer, who has been selected as the 2015 Civil Air Patrol Drug Demand Reduction Member of the Year! In his congratulatory letter to her Maj Gen. Joseph Vazquez wrote: Congratulations! I am happy to inform you of your selection as 2015 Civil Air Patrol Drug Demand Reduction Member of the Year. As the Drug Demand Reduction Member of the Year you will be honored by CAP at the upcoming National Conference in Orlando, Florida, August 27-29, 2015. I am confident you will continue to provide outstanding service to Civil Air Patrol and to the United States of America.

- **MICKELSON TRAIL MARATHON**: The annual Black Hills marathon, run along the Mickelson Trail, was held on 7 June. Once again cadets and seniors from the Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron attended to the runners by distributing water, sports drinks and fruit and, to some, Vaseline to treat underarm chafing. Four runners were transported with minor maladies back to the race finish line. Mother Nature provided beautiful weather for the marathon. At mile marker 20 (of the 26.2 mile marathon) the members earned the appreciation of the over 3,000 participants and thanks from the sponsors of the race. Cadets having a hand in the community service enterprise were C/Lt Jared Doyle, C/CMSgt Connor Caneva, C/MSgt Keyvin Rauscher, C/SSgt Peter Iverson, CB Jerry Fahrenbruck and CB George Fahrenbruck. Seniors participating were Capt Bill Collister, Lt Col Buck DeWeese and Capt Brandon Caneva.
• **INDIAN SCHOOL VISIT:** Pierre Composite Squadron members Lt Col Myra Christensen and Capt Richard Helton met with students of St. Joseph Indian School (SJIS) in Chamberlain in June. SJIS occasionally holds a Field Day, this time it was at the Chamberlain airport. Students visited the mechanics’ shop with some aircraft being serviced. Then they visited hangers with larger aircraft so they could get a wider perspective. A CAP Cessna-172 was flown to Chamberlain and displayed on the tarmac. Students tried on the headset, asked about portions of the instrument panel, about antennas on the outside of the aircraft, and other items of interest to them. Eleven students attended the presentation along with three adult helpers. Materials were provided for each of them to make a pencil rocket to demonstrate aerodynamic principles explained by Lt Col Christensen and Capt Helton. This was an excellent meet and greet with the students and staff of SJIS. CAP was promoted to the students, staff and some area residents. The students reported having a great time looking at the airplanes and learning a bit about them.

• **OPEN HOUSE AT KRAP:** On, June 20, Rapid City Regional Airport had an Open House. The squadron worked hard along with other members from Custer and Spearfish to provide crowd control and parking detail for the day. We also helped set up/take down the event.
barricades. Although busy, we still managed to recruit two new members and share CAP with many others. Lt Jack Jensen and SM Jordan Tremblay had our aircraft on static display. Our squadron provided nine members participating, Crazy Horse had five, and Lookout Mountain had two. It was a great team effort.

Figure 179 – SDWG members at KRAP Open House
Figure 180 – SDWG aircraft on static display at KRAP Open House

**JULY 2015**

- **LOW-LEVEL ROUTE SURVEY**: Each year the South Dakota Air National Guard requests SDWG carry out low-level route surveys (LLRS) of selected military aerial training routes and of aerial Military Operations Areas (MOA). These military air training routes cover southeastern South Dakota, northwestern Iowa and northeastern Nebraska leading to and from the O’Neill MOA. The task is to search for uncharted hazards to low-flying military pilots such as antenna towers, changes to charted towers, and to locate noise sensitive areas - stock pens/feedlots of which there are a vast number between Sioux City and Omaha.

Over six days in July, SDWG aircrews flew fourteen sorties for a total of 41.4 flight hours.

On 29 July, a crew of Capt Neil Schmid (Mission Pilot), SM Kevin Kayser (Mission Scanner), and Capt Jerry Zurovski (Mission Observer) flew the final two LLRS sorties for this year. The initial 3.5 hour sortie was flying over the south half of the O’Neill MOA. The crew landed for fuel and a much needed rest stop at the airport in Norfolk, Nebraska.

When SDWG flew a LLRS, a command post is set up for $C^3$ support for the aircraft. SDWG Capt Neil Schmid served as Incident Commander. Sioux Falls Composite Squadron’s Lt Jerry Hayden was this year’s Operations Section Chief and Capt Matt Meert was the Planning Coordinator.

Wing Commander Col John Seten commended all of people involved, “The annual Low-Level Route Survey Mission is a very important one for the safety of military pilots training in the area. We are pleased and proud that the South Dakota Air National Guard entrusts this critical mission to us. All of our volunteer CAP aircrew members are to be commended for their dedication and professionalism in carrying out this mission.”
- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEY**: SDWG flew Mission #15-C-10518 Aerial Wildlife Survey over seven days in July in support of the state Department of Game, Fish & Parks and South Dakota State University. GF&P surveys deer, goats, mountain lions, and elk while SDSU surveys elk, bobcats and big horn sheep. The result was 32.6 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. The CAP pilot for three sorties was Lt Col Gary Hewett; two sorties were flown by Lt Col Buck DeWeese, and four sorties by Lt Col Albert Trumble. Depending on whom the sortie supported he was accompanied by one or more representatives from SDSU or from Game, Fish & Parks.

Figure 181 – LLRS survey area map

Figure 182 – Mountain lion with a radio-telemetry collar
AUGUST 2015

- **REDCAP** AFRCC Mission 15-M-0016: On 18 August, the Union County Office of Emergency Management requested SDWG assist the Union County Sheriff in the search for the body of a swimmer reported missing near Elk Point on the Missouri River. On 19 August, a Sioux Falls based CAP Cessna-182 flew to the geographic coordinates of the beach where the swimmer entered the water then searched downstream towards Ponca City making several passes along the area. The CAP aircrew consisted of Capt Neil Schmidt (Mission Pilot), C/Maj Brandon West (Mission Observer) and Lt Manny Steele (Mission Scanner). A second sortie was planned for late afternoon to take advantage of shadows cast by the changing position of the sun. However the body was located by ground units after the first sortie had returned to base and a second sortie was not needed.

Figure 183 – Spidertracks showing the CAP aircraft search pattern
Figure 184 – Vehicles/boat trailers of Union County Sheriff and State Game Fish and Parks

Figure 185 – Extent of the REDCAP search area
Figure 186 – Search boat (center left) checks snags and sand bars for missing swimmer

- **WING SPLIT SAREX**: On 29 August, the South Dakota Wing held its second state-wide training exercise for 2015. The activity is referred to as a “Split SAREX” (Search and Rescue Exercise), split because coordinated training is conducted simultaneously in the East River and
West River areas. The focus was training aircrews, ground search teams and command staffs by using realistic search and rescue scenarios that mirror Civil Air Patrol’s real-world activity.

In the West River area an Incident Command Post was set up at the Wing Headquarters in Rapid City. They were joined by aircraft, vehicles and personnel from the Pierre Composite Squadron in Pierre and from the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer. Under the control of Incident Commander Col Mike Beason three CAP aircraft flew search and rescue sorties from the squadron’s hangar at the Rapid City Regional airport. In addition, one ground search team operated from the squadron headquarters conducting similar training exercises as the aircraft. The Ground Team and the aircraft used interoperable communications to provide updated search information to each other.

Figure 187 – West River Incident command post at wing headquarters
Figure 188 – West River ground team plans their search mission near Pactola Lake

In the East River area, a Staging Base was set up at the headquarters of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron at the Sioux Falls Airport. They were joined there by aircraft, vehicles and personnel from Big Sioux Composite Squadron from Brookings. Three CAP aircraft and three ground teams conducted training exercises similar to those in the West River area.

A Split SAREX gives participants the chance to work with Wing units that don’t often have the opportunity to train together with massed assets. The benefit of such training is teamwork and coordination between command staff, aircrews and ground teams. In addition, a great deal of individual skills training was also accomplished.

- **ELLSWORTH AFB AIRSHOW**: 15 August, dawned warm and clear - a perfect day for the Ellsworth AFB Air Show. By 0900 the crowds were pouring in, by the end of the weekend it was reported that over 17,000 people had visited the airshow. World War II and Korean War vintage aircraft performed for the crowd. At 1430 the Air Force Thunderbirds performed as the highlight of the show. Through it all over 20 CAP volunteers from Rushmore, Pierre and Lookout Mountain, cadets and seniors, hosted the hordes of visitors wanting a peek in a CAP Cessna-172 and Cessna-182 - and perhaps a chance to climb in the cockpit. Many more asked lots of questions and learned about CAP's role in the community. Maj Craig Goodrich worked with Ellsworth AFB personnel to get a CAP table and two aircraft in a prominent location at the show. On Sunday the crowds were a bit thinner but no less traffic at the CAP table. Even USAF personnel from F-15 aircrew to Academy cadets came by to learn about CAP.
Members from all squadrons save Brookings made it to the show. Lt Kris Bierwirth brought a contingent of cadets from Custer to enjoy the show on Sunday. Lt Col Greg Lair and C/SMSgt Julia Lair came from Sioux Falls. The Pine Ridge Squadron at Chadron, Nebraska squadron sent a contingent and one visitor introduced himself as a CAP senior member from the Las Vegas Composite Squadron. By Sunday afternoon we left for home sunburned and tired but with a list of over fifty people who showed an interest in CAP.

Figure 189 – CAP static display at Ellsworth AFB Airshow

- **N97947 IS BACK:** As Arnold Schwarzenegger said in the terminator movies “I’ll be back” Lt Col Rick Larson, Capt Neil Schmid and Maj EW Filler went to Carson City, Nevada on 31 August to retrieve our refurbished Cessna-172 (N97947). Our aircraft underwent a complete makeover by Carson City Air Services. Our pilots will train on the new “GlassHawk” systems before they fly it back to Sioux Falls. The aircraft received a new paint job, a new interior, an all-new Garmin G500 "glass" avionics suite, and more. The refurbished CAP Cessna-172 will add yet another technologically advanced aircraft to South Dakota Wing’s two Garmin G1000-equipped Cessna-182s. We are also currently operating a Minnesota Wing Cessna-182 with retractable landing gear out of Brookings Regional Airport.

Figure 190 – Newly refurbished SDWG Cessna-172
Figure 191 – SDWG Cessna-172’s digital avionics suite

- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEY:** SDWG flew Mission #15-C-11073 Aerial Wildlife Survey over seven days in August in support of the state Department of Game, Fish & Parks and South Dakota State University. GF&P surveys deer, goats, mountain lions, and elk while SDSU surveys elk, bobcats and big horn sheep. The result was 29 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. The CAP pilot for six sorties was Maj Craig Goodrich; three sorties were flown by Lt Col Buck DeWeese and two sorties by Lt Col Albert Trumble. Depending on
whom the sortie supported they were accompanied by one or more representatives from SDSU or from Game, Fish & Parks.

- **SDWG WINS NCR AWARD**: South Dakota Wing was recognized as North Central Region winner of the Homeland Security/Counterdrug Mission Award. Col Seten accepted this award on behalf of the Wing during the General Assembly session of the 2015 CAP National Conference in Orlando, Fl. It is a testament to the dedication and professionalism of our members that South Dakota Wing is preeminent in CAP.

- **CAP HISTORICAL DISPLAY**: On 21 August, Wing Historian Maj Todd Epp set up a CAP exhibit in the lobby of the public library in Canton, just south of Sioux Falls. Items included are a "Smurf suit" loaned by Lt Col Myra Christensen, a Corporate Dress Uniform loaned by Maj Epp, various rank insignia and patches, DDR materials, model rockets, models of a Cessna-172 and Cessna-180 in CAP livery, various awards and plaques, photos of Sioux Falls cadets at the airport in 1945, blow-ups of WWII era newspaper articles about the creation of SDWG and CAP, and informational placards on SDWG’s history and missions. Our thanks to head librarian Edith Nelson and to librarians Jonette Chaon and Jane Klemme in helping to make this exhibit possible.

Figure 192 – Portion of the CAP Exhibit at the Canton Public Library
Figure 193 – Another portion of the CAP Exhibit at the Canton Public Library

Figure 194 – Photos and documents at the CAP Exhibit at the Canton Public Library
• **CGM PRESENTATION:** More than 70 years ago, two young women from South Dakota decided they wanted to do something to help their country during World War II. Pauline Brehe of Pierre and Lois Schmidt of Agar were part of a small group of women who served in the South Dakota Civil Air Patrol during the war; something most girls weren’t doing in the 1940s. A lot has changed in the past seven decades, but their service hasn’t been forgotten. On 24 August, Gov. Dennis Daugaard presented Congressional Gold Medals to Pauline and Lois for their WWII CAP service.

Lois and Pauline were founding members of the Pierre Composite Squadron and among the first women in not just South Dakota but the United States to become CAP members. Pauline joined CAP in 1942 as a senior member. She later served in the Army as a medical/surgical technician. The day after the ceremony Pauline celebrated her 88th birthday. Lois joined CAP in 1943 as a cadet. She returned to CAP in the 1960s and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

The medal is being given to members of the Civil Air Patrol during WWII for their role in protecting the U.S. coasts against German U-boat attacks during the war and in carrying out a wide variety of wartime domestic missions. Daugaard said during the ceremony at the state Capitol that he was glad to honor the women for helping create a great legacy of service to the nation.

**SEPTEMBER 2015**

• **MOUNTAIN FURY:** From 11 to 13 September, eleven Civil Air Patrol pilots from across the South Dakota Wing participated in “Mountain Fury”, CAP’s Mountain Search Pilot Course. The purpose of the course was to train CAP Mission Pilots to be mountain-qualified CAP Mission Pilots. The activity was directed by Maj Craig Goodrich, Commander of the Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City. Day one and part of day two were spent in classes on the physics, skills, techniques and perils of mountain flying. The classroom training was at the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron Headquarters in Custer. The blocks of classroom instruction were held on high altitude flying (Capt Josh Hall), mountain weather (Maj Craig Goodrich), mountain flying (Col Mike Beason) and mountain searching (Capt Matt Meert).
The rest of day two and day three were spent flying training sorties. Flight operations were at the Custer County Airport at Custer. Each mission pilot flew four mission training sorties. Although the elevation of the Black Hills of South Dakota do not provide the kind of mountainous terrain that other mountain states can provide, many of the sorties were flown up around 10,000 feet MSL, and reduced power settings simulated “real” mountain flying. Plus, Custer County Airport and Custer State Park Airport are no walk-in-the-park. A pilot must be thinking about mountain flying to operate in and out of these challenging airports. A total of 25 sorties were flown with seven of the pilots earning or renewing their Mountain Flying Certification.

Capt Kurt Johnson of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, one of the mission pilots that went through the training said, "I personally gained a great deal of experience and respect for operating safely in "hot and high" environments. Our aircraft take on a whole new set of flight characteristics under these conditions. As pilots, we all read about this...but, the practical experience provided in this clinic was priceless! I feel no mission pilot should exercise their ratings in mountainous terrain without this training or similar practical experience!"

Maj Goodrich remarked, “Everyone stepped in to help with meals, cleanup, sortie management, and watching over safety. I especially want to thank the First Baptist Church of Custer, who operates Camp Victory, across the road from the airport, for their hospitality in allowing us to use their facilities for lodging and meals. The nearly perfect weather, camaraderie, and storytelling around the campfire each night helped make this weekend a great event.”

- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEY**: SDWG flew Mission #15-C-11396 Aerial Wildlife Survey over eight days in September in support of the state Department of Game, Fish & Parks and South Dakota State University. GF&P surveys deer, goats, mountain lions, and elk while SDSU surveys elk, bobcats and big horn sheep. The result was 30.1 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. The CAP pilot for one sortie was Maj Craig Goodrich; one sortie was flown by Lt Col Buck DeWeese and 11 sorties were flown by Lt Col Gary Hewitt. Depending on whom the sortie supported they were accompanied by representatives from SDSU or from Game, Fish & Parks.
• **WING WEBSITE UPDATE**: The new “Wing History” section of the wing website is now available for viewing. It is part of the celebration of SDWG’s 75th Anniversary in 2016. There are three parts: “History” - documents on the history of CAP and South Dakota Wing; “Genealogy” - a list of the units that have been part of South Dakota wing since its founding in 1941; and “Heraldry” – photos and descriptions about the Region, Wing and Squadron patches.

**OCTOBER 2015**

• **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEY**: SDWG flew Mission #16-C-3005 Aerial Wildlife Survey over seven days in October in support of the state Department of Game, Fish & Parks and South Dakota State University. GF&P surveys deer, goats, mountain lions, and elk while SDSU surveys elk, bobcats and big horn sheep. The result was 19.9 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. The CAP pilot for the sorties was Lt Col Gary Hewitt. Depending on whom the sortie supported they were accompanied by one or more representatives from SDSU or from Game, Fish & Parks.

• **CAP HISTORICAL DISPLAY**: At the request of the Custer County Courthouse Art Council the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron created a Civil Air Patrol exhibit at the Custer County Courthouse on 6 October. The exhibit was on display until 4 January 2016. On the 6th there was a grand opening reception with about 30 people attending. Capt Bierwirth gave a brief speech about CAP and its history and relation to the community.

Figure 200 – Squadron members at Custer Courthouse CAP Exhibit grand opening
Figure 201 – Part of the Custer Courthouse CAP Exhibit

Figure 202 – Rank insignia portion of the Custer Court House CAP Exhibit
Figure 203 – Radio equipment portion of the Custer Courthouse CAP Exhibit
NOVEMBER 2015

- **PIERRE SAREX**: On 7 November SDWG conducted a Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) in Pierre. Project Officer, Maj Nick Gengler, created multiple scenarios for the aircrews and ground search teams for electronic and visual searches and airborne photography.

That same morning we learned of a real-world missing person search going on in Pierre and around the state. The Pierre Police Department (PPD), leading the search, felt the resources that we offered wouldn’t be needed. However, we notified our aircrews and ground search teams to be on the lookout for a specific vehicle, and were given the description of the missing person. Coordination with the PDD and working with their data was a good exercise for the mission planning staff. Any time the Wing can coordinate with local law enforcement and emergency managers, even on small tasks, the relationship building and experience goes a long way.

Here’s a quick summary of the SAREX:
- 42 CAP personnel participated from across the wing
- 5 CAP aircraft and 5 CAP vans were a part of the mission
- 16 air sorties flown
- 12 ground sorties
• **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEY:** SDWG flew Mission #16-C-3005 Aerial Wildlife Survey over five days in November in support of the state Department of Game, Fish & Parks and South Dakota State University. GF&P surveys deer, goats, mountain lions, and elk while SDSU surveys elk, bobcats and big horn sheep. The result was 22.3 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. The CAP pilot for the sorties was Lt Col Gary Hewitt. Depending on whom the sortie supported he was accompanied by one or more representatives from SDSU or from Game, Fish & Parks.

• **NEW SQUADRON COMMANDER:** Col Seten announced the appointment of Maj E.W. Filler as Commander of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings effective 6 November.

**DECEMBER 2015**

• **CGM PRESENTATION:** South Dakota U.S. Sen. John Thune led a ceremony to honor a lifelong Sioux Falls resident who was awarded a Civil Air Patrol Congressional Gold Medal posthumously for service during World War II. The event on 21 December honored Walter Wilson. His widow, Shirley Wilson, accepted the medal on her husband's behalf.

Wilson was a CAP cadet in training when World War II ended. He was trained in recognizing aircraft, the dynamics of flight and Morse code, in addition to other skills. Shirley Wilson said while her husband didn't speak much about his time in the Civil Air Patrol. "He'd be very pleased." Wilson's sister, son and daughter in-law, along with representatives from the Civil Air Patrol, looked on during the ceremony.

Figure 208 – CAP Cadet Walter Wilson (in red box) in 1945
AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEY: SDWG flew Mission #16-C-3005 Aerial Wildlife Survey over eight days in December in support of the state Department of Game, Fish & Parks and South Dakota State University. GF&P surveys deer, goats, mountain lions, and elk while SDSU surveys elk, bobcats and big horn sheep. The result was 26 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. The CAP pilots for the sorties were: Lt Col Gary Hewitt, three sorties; Maj Craig Goodrich, one sortie; Lt Col Buck DeWeese, one sortie; Lt Col Albert Trumble, three sorties. Depending on whom the sortie supported they were accompanied by a representative from SDSU or from Game, Fish & Parks.
# LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>SDWG Electronic Newsletter - Skychaser - January 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>SDWG Electronic Newsletter - Skychaser - February 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>SDWG Electronic Newsletter - Skychaser - March 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>SDWG Electronic Newsletter - Skychaser - June 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SDWG Electronic Newsletter - Skychaser - July 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>SDWG Electronic Newsletter - Skychaser - August 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>SDWG Electronic Newsletter - Skychaser - September 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>SDWG Electronic Newsletter - Skychaser - October 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>SDWG Electronic Newsletter - Skychaser - November 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>SDWG Electronic Newsletter - Skychaser - December 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>South Dakota Wing Roundup Magazine #1 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>South Dakota Wing Roundup Magazine #2 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>South Dakota Wing Roundup Magazine #3 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Wing News Release #1-15 – REDCAP 10 January 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Wing News Release #2-15 – Split SAREX 24 January 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Wing News Release #3-15 – Cadet Cyber-Sleuths Advance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Wing News Release #4-15 – SDWG Meets Governor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Wing News Release #5-15 – SDWG Cyber Team at National CyberPatriot-VII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Wing News Release #6-15 – SDWG Lt in Engineering Order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Wing News Release #7-15 – Lair Hits 3000 Hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Wing News Release #8-15 – Big Sioux 2nd in CyberPatriot-VII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Wing News Release #9-15 – CAP Conducts SAREX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Wing News Release #10-15 – Earl Wilkinson CGM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Wing News Release #11-15 – National Commander in Sioux Falls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Wing News Release #12-15 – Cadet Receives Scholarship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Wing News Release #13-15 – Big Sioux Wins Squadron of the Year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
29. Wing News Release #14-15 – Flight Scholarships
32. Wing News Release #17-15 – SDWG Officer Gets National Award
33. Wing News Release #18-15 – USAF Encampment Scholarships
34. Wing News Release #19-15 – SDWG Seeks CGM Candidates
35. Wing News Release #20-15 – CAP Cadets Begin Encampment
36. Wing News Release #21-15 – Cadet at CAP National Officers School
37. Wing News Release #22-15 – CAP Trains in Mountain Flying
38. Wing News Release #23-15 – SDWG Evaluates South Carolina Flood Damage
40. Wing News Release #25-15 – SDWG Competes in National Cadet Competition
REMINDER: CAP Legislative Day at the State Capitol is February 11, 2015. Col. Seten encourages all who can go that day to attend. Attend the house and senate sessions, meet and greet our state legislators.

REDCAP Mission 15-M-0016: Early on 10 January, the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Tyndall AFB, Florida notified the South Dakota Wing that the Lawrence County Office of Emergency Management requested CAP assistance in the search for a missing person in the rugged, heavily forested hills near Spearfish. A Rapid City-based Cessna-182T aircraft was used for the search. The aircrew consisted of Lt. Col. Gary Hewett (Mission Pilot), Capt. Joshua Hall (Mission Observer) and Maj. David Small, Jr. (Mission Scanner). The Incident Commander was J.D. Guigoe of Lawrence County OEM. Col. John Seten coordinated the CAP activity. The individual was found alive and all CAP assets were stood down.

CYBERPATRIOT-VII UPDATE: We’re going to the National Finals! “Team Big Sioux” cadet cybersecurity team is heading to the national finals of the CyberPatriot competition for the fourth year in a row! To earn the all-expenses-paid trip the cadet cyber-sleuths placed first in regional round of the competition. The national finals of the CyberPatriot-VII competition will be in March in Washington, D.C.

In the finals, the only in-person round, the team will compete to defend virtual networks and mobile devices from a professional aggressor team. The finalists will also face-off in three additional competition components: Digital Cyber Crime Scene Challenge, Cisco Networking Challenge, and Digital Forensics Challenge. These extra challenges broaden the cybersecurity experience and expose teams to new elements of the many career opportunities available to them. The team will be scored on how quickly and effectively they establish and maintain secure networks.
Team Big Sioux consists of Team Captain C/Maj Joshua Klosterman of Brandon, C/2\textsuperscript{nd} Lt Chris Dinnel, C/SMSgt Jaden Petersen, C/SSgt Sergeant Nathaniel Fleet, all from Lake Benton, MN, and C/2\textsuperscript{nd} Lt Laura Rudnik of Brookings. The team is coached by Capt. Shannon Hofer of Hendricks, MN and mentored by Cadet Captain Tyler Gross of Volga. Article and photo submitted by Maj. Gengler and Capt. Hofer.

"TEAM BIG SIOUX" CADET CYBERSECURITY SPECIALISTS RELAX AFTER A GRUELING SESSION

- **SPLIT SAREX 23-25 JANUARY**: The Wing’s first exercise for 2015 was held Saturday, 24 January. The focus was on training aircrews, ground search teams and command staffs through realistic search and rescue scenarios that mirror CAP’s real-world activity. All five of the Wing’s aircraft, six vehicles and 75 officers and cadets took part in the training exercise.

In the West River area an Incident Command Post was set up at the headquarters of the Rushmore Composite Squadron on Ellsworth AFB. Three CAP aircraft flew search and rescue sorties from the squadron’s hangar at the Rapid City Regional airport. In addition, one ground search team operated from the squadron headquarters conducting independent but similar training exercises as the aircraft.

In the East River area, a Staging Base was set up at the headquarters of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron at the Brookings Airport. Big Sioux’s personnel were joined by aircraft, vehicles and personnel from the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron. Under the control of Incident Commander Col. Mike Beason at Ellsworth AFB two CAP aircraft and two ground teams conducted training exercises similar to those in the West River area.

The Split SAREX was a chance to work with Wing units that don’t often have the opportunity to train together with massed assets. The benefit from training such as this is teamwork, the coordination between command staff, aircrews and ground teams. In addition, a great deal of individual skills training was also accomplished.

**LEFT**: TWO AIRCREW MEMBERS PLAN FOR THEIR FLIGHT
**CENTER**: CADET GROUND TEAM MEMBER TRAINS WITH NEW RADIO-DETECTION-FINDING EQUIPMENT
**RIGHT**: CADET RADIO OPERATORS MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH AIRCRAFT AND GROUND TEAMS
AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS: SDWG flew aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife on seven days in January in support of the state Department of Game, Fish & Parks and South Dakota State University. GF&P surveys deer, goats, mountain lions, and elk while SDSU surveys elk and bobcats. The result was 21.5 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. The CAP pilot for the flights was Lt. Col. Gary Hewett. Depending on whom the sortie supported he was accompanied by either Mr. Brandon Tycz or Ms. Sarah Nevison from SDSU (19.5 flying hours) or Ms. Lauren Wiechmann from GF&P (2 flying hours). During the 27 January mission 26 bobcats were located over an area from Rapid City toward Faith, to east of Bison, to north of Spearfish. Mr. Tycz, the SDSU tracker who flies with CAP, with a bobcat he trapped. The bobcat is sedated.

G-1000 VFR CLASS: On 17 January, six aviators took part in a G-1000 VFR training class hosted by Rushmore Composite Squadron and presented by Maj. Craig Goodrich and Lt. Col. Gary Hewett. The class spent most of the day at SDWG HQ exploring the functions and capabilities of the Cessna-182 “glass cockpit”. Present around the table were (clockwise) Lt. Col. Gary Hewett, Maj. Craig Goodrich (both CFI class instructors), SM Jack Jensen, Col. Mike Beason, Mr. Cliff Wippel, Lt. Col. Chuck Trumble and SM Tim Shannon, all members of Rushmore Composite Squadron. G-1000 equipped aircraft have tremendous potential for those properly trained to utilize it.

Classes such as this are required for those who have never flown with it before and an important review for those of us who seldom see it. Classroom discussion is much cheaper than aviation gasoline. Article and photo submitted by Lt. Col. DeWeese

“CIVIL AIR PATROL HISTORY” FACEBOOK PAGE: The CAP national history staff has acquired digital versions of some 1950s-era Air Force films about the Civil Air Patrol. Enjoy CAP (1950), an introductory film about CAP at https://history.cap.gov/video/AF_SPF_251.m4v and Ambassadors with Wings (1957) about the 1957 IACE at https://history.cap.gov/video/Ambassadors_with_Wings.m4v. [Editor: If you haven’t viewed this Facebook page you should check it out. It has amazing information and old photos of CAP]
- **NORTH DAKOTA CADET LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**: SDWG cadets are invited to the North Dakota Cadet Leadership Academy 20-22 February at the Fargo ANG Base. It should be a great event with attendees from around the Tri-State area. Note that the NDWG CLA is the week after the South Dakota Wing CLA in Pierre. You are welcome and invited to go to both events. It is always good to get another Wing's perspective on CAP. Follow the link to sign up, [https://und.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_5gRXGNNGwyOEMIZ](https://und.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_5gRXGNNGwyOEMIZ), or contact Capt. Graham Frost at Cell: 206-743-7411 or ae@ndcap.us with any questions, comments, or concerns.

- **POWDER RIVER BOMBING RANGE EXPANSION**: The Air Force has approved the plan to quadruple the airspace of the Powder River Training Complex over the states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming. This is to give B-52 crews from Minot AFB in North Dakota and B-1 crews from Ellsworth AFB in South Dakota the ability to train more realistically and efficiently close to home. The expansion will create the largest training airspace over the continental United States. Among the advantages, the extra airspace will allow the Air Force to conduct several large-force exercises each year where some 20 airplanes will train together as they would fight in actual combat. The Federal Aviation Administration must now approve the plan and then modify and establish the requisite airspace.


- **ELLSWORTH B-1BS DEPLOY TO SUPPORT OIR, OFS**: Some 350 airmen from Ellsworth AFB, S.D., deployed to Southwest Asia on Jan. 20, where they will support B-1B in both Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Freedom's Sentinel in Afghanistan. The aircrew members, maintenance, and support personnel from Ellsworth's 28th Bomb Wing are deploying to the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing at Al Udeid AB, Qatar, where they will help provide US Central Command air presence, precision strike assets, and surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities, while other airmen will work to assist sortie generation and mission assurance tasks. For the last nine months, airmen have worked extensively to train for scenarios they're looking to be involved in during the deployment, including hours of personal and tactical studies as well as numerous training sorties, said Capt. Jonathan Vogel, a 34th Bomb Squadron instructor pilot. The 28th BW deployment will take the place of airmen from the 9th BS from Dyess AFB, Texas, who deployed to CENTCOM in summer 2014.


- **USAF CYBER SQUADRON ACTIVATED AT HICKAM**: As a sign of the growing importance of cyber security, the Air Force earlier this month stood up the 690th Cyberspace Operations Squadron (COS) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. The new unit hosts some 144 airmen who will conduct cyber operations 24 hours a day in order to provide "agile cyber combat support" around the world. "What is improving with the 690th COS activation is an effort to develop better network situational awareness [and] to become less reactive and more proactive," said Col. Chad Raduege, commander of the 690th Cyberspace Operations Group. "The 690th COS can provide a more proactive mission of identifying and closing vulnerabilities, as well as interpreting cyber intelligence and implementing new network configurations," he said.


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**STAFF NOTES**

**WING CHIEF OF STAFF**

Maj. David Small, Jr., CAP

- Please remember to use the CAPF-32 Cadet Permission Form for all activities other than regular weekly squadron meetings, where cadets under the age of 18 participate. This includes SAREX and actual searches.
The SD Wing modified CAPF-32 allows parental input via telephone, text or e-mail. This form can be found on the Wing website at: http://sdcap.us/cadet-programs/. Let me know if anyone has any questions.

- All of us are volunteers in CAP. All of us have lots of things in our life that pull us in many directions. Clear and concise communications helps us accomplish our goals and work efficiently with others.

Here are some rules-of-thumb for e-mailing:

1. **Respond quickly.** I know that some CAP members like to check CAP related e-mails only a couple of times a week, others of us are neurotic enough to check them twenty times per day. Whichever system you use please check and respond at least weekly. If you can't do that reliably please let me know so that we won't hold up critical action items waiting for a response.

2. **Be crisp in your delivery** - don't ramble, get to the point. Make sure that your topic is clear and unambiguous.

3. **Clean out your inbox constantly** - the more things pile up the harder it is to get to them.

4. **Handle e-mails in a LIFO** (Last In First Out) order. Sometimes the issue has been addressed by the time you might read the oldest e-mail. (Don't use this as an excuse to check your e-mails only rarely)

5. **You are a router** - if you get something useful to someone else, and it isn't confidential, pass it on.

6. **Make it easy to follow up on requests.** Yes/no questions work well. Don't ask 20 questions in an e-mail if possible. Likewise, if you are the recipient of an e-mail with questions please respond to all of them.

7. **Save your e-mail for future reference.** Personally I print all e-mails as PDF files that are stored on my hard drive. These can be searched by word later if needed. Many others save old e-mails in and old e-mail folder.

8. **Use BCC.** If you are broadcasting something to many people or to the wing and don't need everyone to respond to everyone else please use BCC (Blind Copy). This prevents a lot of clutter at the beginning of an e-mail and also reduced extraneous communication amongst a lot of people.

9. **Reply.** If you have received an e-mail that the sender might want to confirm that you have seen please reply with "got it" or some other quick response letting them know that they don't have to follow up with you later.

10. **Don't put anything in writing that you will regret later.** E-mails have remarkable staying power and you don't want to be embarrassed by something that you might have said in the heat of the moment years ago.

11. **Don't hide behind e-mails.** There are times when face to face or telephone communication is needed.

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**CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068, CUSTER)**

(Items and photos by Lt. K. Bierwirth)

- **WELCOME ABOARD:** Diane Geeting has joined our ranks, welcome aboard Nurse Geeting. We are pleased that you decided to join CAP and are proud that you are a member of our squadron!
**SOON TO BE WELCOMED ABOARD**: Tim Modde from the former squadron in Philip will soon join our squadron. We look forward to having you with us!

**STAR POWER**: C/CMSgt Jason Parry once again blessed the stage with his wonderful acting talents. This time he was Quinn in the one act play called “Deal With It & Carry On.”

**VISITORS**: Apparently Maj. David Small Jr. and Capt. Sylvia Small heard about the wild times we have and decided to come and investigate our mayhem. Hope we didn’t traumatize you too much.

**CRITTER ALERT**: On one of our dark and cold nights we had a furry four legged friend show up on our door step. This was odd as our building is surrounded by fencing but this little pup found his way in and knew where to come after being lost and frightened. Luckily he had dog tags and we were able to contact the owners who rescued the little guy.

**WILDERNESS INJURIES & RESCUE**: National Parks Service Paramedic Dan Fairchild from the Devils Tower National Monument came to teach us about wilderness injuries and rescue. It was amazing to learn how items you have in your backpack can be used to help someone. Who knew a sweatshirt had so many uses, and just think many of us thought the sleeves were only used as napkins. A great time was had by all.

![Victims of a terrible accident](image1.jpg) ![Turn-about is fair play](image2.jpg)

**LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-063, SPEARFISH)**
(Items and photos by Maj. David Small Jr.)

**CHANGE OF CADET COMMAND**: The torch of cadet responsibility for command and leadership of the squadron was passed on 22 January.

Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Justin Harris (far left) handed over the reins of command to Cadet Second Lieutenant Bradley Blansett (right) with the assistance of Chief Master Sergeant Connor Caneva (center). Squadron Commander Capt. Bill Collister (far right) presided.
Capt Sylvia Small conducted a character development course on "The Ethics of Fiscal Responsibility – Part 2". Eight cadets and six seniors were present for the lively course.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT COURSE

RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-031, RAPID CITY)
(Items and photos by Maj. Goodrich)

- **FIRE, FIRE, BURNING BRIGHT**: On 26 January the squadron had a special training opportunity. A couple members needed to extinguish a fire as part of their Ground Team Leader training. So, Maj. Goodrich thought it would be good to train everyone in this valuable skill and take advantage of the special CAP/USAF relationship. He shared the surprise during the commander’s call briefing – and all the members of the squadron drove to Ellsworth AFB’s Fire Department. Everyone got to extinguish a fire with a Halon extinguisher (Maj. Goodrich and Lt. Col. Hewett had an “opportunity” to find out what breathing in a small amount of the gas feels like). Afterwards everyone headed back to the squadron where the Ground Team members completed training using the task guide and overseen by a special Ground Team Leader Skills Evaluator/Trainer - Capt. Collister. One cadet remarked that night, “This was one of the most fun things we’ve done at a meeting!” Special thanks go to A1C Jordan LaPoint, and SSgt Zach McCormick of the 28th Bomb Wing Fire Department.

- **NEWEST MEMBERS**: Welcome aboard to new members – Senior Members Keven Gross and Clifford Wippel and Cadets Theodore Tornow and Owen Weller. We are pleased that you have chosen to join CAP and proud to have you as members of our squadron.
**BACK WITH US:** Lt. Col. Chuck Trumble just transferred back to active status in the Rushmore Composite Squadron. He had been in the “Ghost Squadron” while out of state. Welcome back Chuck! Chuck is a CFI for both aircraft and gliders, and has been a senior member in CAP since 1977. He previously held positions in the SD Wing as the Director of Operations and the Wing Stan/Eval Officer.

**SIOUX FALLS COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-050, SIOUX FALLS)**
(Items and photos by Capt. Erickson, Capt. Karla West, and Capt. Schmid)

**STARLAB:** Lt. Stockinger, our Aerospace Education officer arranged a cool AE program on 15 January. A crew from Siouxland Heritage Museum brought their portable stardome to the squadron. From the museum’s website – Gaze into the night sky in our portable planetarium and discover the secrets of the seasonal constellations. Starlab gives viewers the tools to begin their own sky exploration. Starlab encompasses astronomy and mythology. 40 squadron members and guests were transported through the universe as our navigator guided us through the stars of the Northern Hemisphere as they appear at this time of year. We were introduced to Greek mythological characters as we explored how heroes of the past can be found in the night sky as we learned to identify stars and constellations. Capt. Erickson said, "What a great thing to have right at our squadron. It will help me remember how to identify the constellations and how they came about".

**NIGHT CURRENCY FLIGHTS:** On 15 January Capt. Neil Schmid and Capt. Matt Meert were aloft for night currency flights. A major metropolitan area such as Sioux Falls is a kaleidoscope of colors at night and the aerial view is spectacular. In the darkness the two pilots took some very cool photos, although on a clear night photos don’t do justice to the brilliance of the colors when viewed in person. The photo at left is a panoramic overview of Sioux Falls by night. The photo on the right shows the approach and runway lights at Sioux Falls Regional Airport.
Senior Member Promotion

Congratulations to Roy Weller of Rushmore Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Second Lieutenant!

Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions

Congratulations to Justin Harris of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron and to Jaden Roblewsky of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Chief Master Sergeant and receipt of the Dr. Robert H. Goddard Award!

Congratulations to Keyvin Rauscher of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Master Sergeant and receipt of the Charles Lindbergh Award!

Congratulations to Graham Dinnel of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Staff Sergeant and receipt of the Wright Brothers Award!

Cadet Airman Promotions

Congratulations to Samuel Lawrence of Rushmore Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the General Hap Arnold Award!

Congratulations to Melissa Spruill of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron on her promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman and receipt of the General J.F. Curry Award!

KUDOS

Congratulations to SM Jordan Tremblay of the Rushmore Composite Squadron! He finished Level I of the Senior Member Professional Development Program

Congratulations to Capt. Richard Geeting and SM Peter Bierwirth, both of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron, who earned the Aerospace Education Yeager Award!

Congratulations to Capt. James Dillon of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron. He became a grandfather this month to a beautiful baby girl: Aullora she came into the world at 6lbs 3oz and according to Jim “she is a peanut”.  C/M Sgt Thomas Dillon and C/Amn Anthony Dillon are both proud Uncles.
Congratulations to Capt. Richard Geeting, 1st Lt. Vicki Bierwirth and SM Peter Bierwirth of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron who attended the ICS 300 class in Rapid City! We hear CAP saved the day by bringing treats for the class. Now that’s good PR!

Congratulations to C/CM Sgt Jason Parry of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron on being inducted into the National Honors Society! The NHS is the nation’s premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. NHS serves to honor students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

Congratulations to Cadet Hunter Rice of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron who received all “A’s on his report card! He even brought some of his grades from an A- to A+

Congratulations to Capt. Richard Geeting, 1st Lt. Vicki Bierwirth of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron who attended the ICS 400 class in Rapid City!

Congratulations SM Jordan Tremblay of the Rushmore Composite Squadron on his appointment as Squadron Assistant Emergency Services Officer!

The truth is out there - and it's now on the Web. The fabled Project Blue Book, the Air Force's files on UFO sightings and investigations, have tantalized and frustrated extraterrestrial enthusiasts for decades. But this past week, nearly 130,000 pages of declassified UFO records - a trove that would make FBI Special Agent Fox Mulder's mouth water - were put online. Project Blue Book was based at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio. Between 1947 and 1969, the Air Force recorded 12,618 sightings of strange phenomena — 701 of which remain "unidentified." Here is the link: [http://www.theblackvault.com/](http://www.theblackvault.com/) [Editor: According to Project Blue Book there have been a few UFO sightings in South Dakota]
BLACK HILLS DRILL DOWN

2 MAY 2015

Rapid City Central High School
433 Mt. Rushmore Road
Rapid City, SD 57701

EVENTS INCLUDE: ARMED AND UNARMED REGULATION AND EXHIBITION, COLOR GUARD, & INDIVIDUAL DRILL DOWN

For information contact Major Conley at Michael.conley@k12.sd.us or (605)394-4001#257
LEGISLATIVE DAY: 11 February was South Dakota Wing’s “Legislative Day”. Some 50 members representing five of our squadrons converged on the state capitol. The CAP officers and cadets met with Gov. Daugaard and posed with him on the staircase of the Capitol Rotunda. Afterwards the SDWG members attended legislative sessions of the House and Senate where they received special recognition when legislators of both houses gave the CAP members a standing ovation.

During the afternoon break in the legislative sessions CAP hosted a snack for the legislators. Lt. Kuecker arranged for cupcakes decorated with CAP insignia. While mingling with the legislators the officers and cadets handed out informational materials about SDWG and CAP and spoke with them about Civil Air Patrol and what CAP’s South Dakota Wing does for communities, counties and the state.

Several individuals are to be thanked for bringing off this event. Kudos to former state representative Lt. Manny Steele who met with his former colleagues and invited them to join the Legislative Squadron. Overall we gained seven new members. Kudos also to Maj. Small for arranging transportation, event scheduling and photography, to Lt. Kuecker for the great snacks, and to Maj. Epp for arranging the event.
• **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS**: SDWG flew aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife on six days in February in support of the state Department of Game, Fish & Parks and South Dakota State University. GF&P surveys deer, goats, mountain lions, and elk while SDSU surveys elk and bobcats. The result was 24.6 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. The CAP pilot for the flights was Lt. Col. Gary Hewett. Depending on whom the sortie supported he was accompanied by Brandon Tycz or Sarah Nevison or Adam Kauth from SDSU (21.2 flying hours) or Lauren Wiechmann from GF&P (2.3 flying hours).

• **SOUTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** is offering two courses required for CAP Emergency Services professional development in Pierre, FEMA IS-300 on 27-28 April and FEMA IS-400 on 29-30 April. Each course is free to attend. Prerequisites for IS-300 are IS-100, IS-200, and IS-700. Prerequisites for IS-400 are IS-100, IS-200, IS-300 and IS-700. Classes will be held 8:00am-5:00pm each day.

Col. Seten has advised that Wing will provide a corporate vehicle for attendees. All they'd need do is provide the fuel. If we know that someone is planning to attend from outside the Pierre area we could try to get it turned into an AFAM which would pay for fuel in the corporate vehicle. I don't know that we've ever done these as an AFAM but don't know why we couldn't. I'd be willing to give it a go but we'd need to know soon who is planning to attend.

Please click on the link below if you would like to register for the IS 300 or IS 400 in Pierre.
ICS 300 [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ics-300-pierre-tickets-15975129041](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ics-300-pierre-tickets-15975129041)
ICS 400 [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ics-400-pierre-tickets-15975188218](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ics-400-pierre-tickets-15975188218)

For a list of all South Dakota Office of Emergency Management courses go to:

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**STAFF NOTES**

**WING COMMANDER**

Col. John Seten, CAP

• I just returned from Washington D.C. where I attended the Winter 2015 CAP Command Council on 27-28 February. While there I also visited with our congressional delegation and gave them a briefing about what SDWG has been doing since I met with them last year. This was the first year for Senator Rounds so it was a good meeting with him as he is already well aware of what CAP is about as he was a CAP cadet. In attendance with me at the meeting with Senator Rounds was the CAP National Commander Maj. Gen. Joe Vazquez, North Central Region Commander Col. Robert Todd and two very sharp cadets from the MD wing. I presented each of our delegation a framed picture of Mt. Rushmore with a CAP aircraft flying by as well as a coin replica of the Congressional Gold Medal our WWII members received. The main CAP topic discussed was the CAP budget. The President's proposed budget leaves CAP short about 11M dollars from what we really need for Operating and Maintenance, aircraft procurement and vehicle procurement. All stated that they'd take a look at the CAP budget when it comes before them and seemed eager to assist with getting the funding to the levels we need. Senator Rounds signed on to be a member of the CAP Congressional squadron joining Senator Thune and Representative Noem.

Here is the link for the Winter 2015 Command Council meeting reports: [http://capmembers.com/events/legday/](http://capmembers.com/events/legday/). They encompass Staff Update briefings, Region Breakout meeting reports and Topic Session breakout reports
I've been looking at our members Flickr links on their emails and noticed that many are going to the photo page instead of the album page. It's much nicer to go to the arranged album page. Here’s the link you may want to use on your Flickr icon instead of the one you're using:  

```www.flickr.com/photos/102270464@N02/sets```  

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**WING CHIEF OF STAFF**  
Maj. David Small, Jr., CAP

- Lt. Manny Steele has been appointed Wing Assistant Government Relations Advisor. He has been very active in helping South Dakota Wing prepare for the Legislative Day in Pierre. Manny represented Lincoln and Minnehaha counties in the State Assembly for many years. His knowledge of how the state legislature works and personal friendships with many serving legislators is a real asset to SDWG.

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**WING CONFERENCE:** The 2015 South Dakota Wing Conference is being held 18-19 April in Pierre at the Clubhouse Inn and Suites. The guest speaker at the banquet will be U.S. Representative Kristi Noem. The South Dakota Wing of Civil Air Patrol has negotiated special rates at two hotels for Wing Conference, 17-19 April in Pierre, SD: Clubhouse Hotel & Suites - this is where the conference is being held. Call (605) 494-2582 and ask for the CAP rate, and, the Super 8 Hotel. This lower cost alternative is only about 1/4 of a mile down the road. Call (605) 224-1617 and ask for the CAP rate to make reservations. Eventbrite conference sign up:  


You can also sign up by sending a check to Wing Headquarters for the indicated amount made out to "South Dakota Wing Civil Air Patrol. Include a note saying that it is for wing conference. Call Wing Administrator Rachel Kuecker at (605) 393-4215 for more information.

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**WING DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS**  
Maj. Nicholas Gengler, CAP

We have a SAREX coming up in Pierre on the 20-22 of March. The main exercise will be taking place on the 21st. Mission Base will be at Mustang Aviation. For those arriving on the 20th, sleeping accommodations are still being worked out and I will update you in the near future. Please email me back with any staff positions you wish to have. Nick_gengler@hotmail.com
WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
Maj. Bruce Kipp, CAP

If you have a smart phone or digital camera with you on a CAP activity then you are a CAP photographer. A good photo is essential to a good article about what you and your colleagues will do, are doing or just did. For a photo to be useable it must be of an authorized CAP activity, the members in the photo if in uniform must be in the proper uniform and properly groomed. Photos should be taken at the highest resolution your smart phone or camera allows. Action photos are preferable to people just sitting around. Always be alert for the opportunity to take a great photo! Contact Lt. David Stockinger, Assistant Wing PAO for Photography, with questions or to upload photos to the wing Flickr account. Let me know if you have photos suitable for the Skychaser, the Wing Roundup or a news release.

WING DIRECTOR OF AEROSPACE EDUCATION
Maj. Rodney “Buck” DeWeese, CAP

MODEL AIRPLANE BUILDING COMPETITION: I have ordered six Cessna-172 plastic model kits with CAP markings for a model aircraft building contest! Hopefully the kits get here soon so that I can distribute them. Each squadron will receive one model kit to build. It can be a solo effort or group effort. We plan to judge the six squadron-built models at the Wing Conference in mid-April. I have ordered some cool prizes to be awarded to the top three model builders: a rotor gyrocopter with camera, a remote controlled electric powered airplane, and a model rocketry kit including launch pad.
South Dakota Wing has received a 2015 Dodge Grand Caravan (#40030) and is getting it mission ready. After the first wash and wax Capt. Foy and Capt. Wallace put CAP decals on the new van. Which unit will receive the new vehicle is yet to be determined.

On 17 February, a joint NDWG/SDWG training session was held for the “Training Leaders of Cadets” course. The program was held at the headquarters of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings. Nine members from the two wings attended: ND-119 (Fargo) members included Capt. Darryl Hick, SM Diana Billick, Lt. Ashley Ehret, and Capt. John Hoeck. Those from SDWG included: Capt. Karen Espeland (SD-050), and Capt. Elliott Filler and Lt. Thomas Delay (SD-058). Lt. Col. Linda Buechler was course director assisted by Col. Mary Donley. Senior Members learned how to become better mentors of cadets and more effective managers of cadet squadrons. The course is a component of Specialty Track - Cadet Programs Officer Specialty Track in the Senior Member Professional Development Program. Great discussions were held between members attending this course. Senior members unable to attend this training session have the opportunity to attend a session 24-26 April in NDWG. More information will be disseminated to squadron commanders. Contact me at 605-212-7032 with any questions. Col. Donley and I are working on another session to be presented during the encampment this year at Camp Rapid in Rapid City.

Next week “Team Big Sioux”, our team of topnotch cadet cyber-sleuths, leaves on the all-expenses-paid trip to the CyberPatriot-VII National Finals Competition 11-15 March in Washington, D.C. Thirteen teams will compete in the All Service Division; two each from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force JROTC and the Sea Cadets, two CAP teams and one wildcard team.
In the finals, the only in-person round, the team will compete to defend virtual networks and mobile devices from a professional aggressor team. The finalists will also face-off in three additional competition components: Digital Cyber Crime Scene Challenge, Cisco Networking Challenge, and Digital Forensics Challenge. These extra challenges broaden the cybersecurity experience and expose teams to new elements of the many career opportunities available to them. The team will be scored on how quickly and effectively they establish and maintain secure networks.

Team Big Sioux consists of Team Captain C/Maj Joshua Klosterman of Brandon, C/2nd Lt Chris Dinnel, C/SM Sgt Jaden Petersen, C/SSgt Sergeant Nathaniel Fleet, all from Lake Benton, MN, and C/2nd Lt Laura Rudnik of Brookings. The team is coached by Capt. Shannon Hofer of Hendricks, MN and mentored by Cadet Captain Tyler Gross of Volga.

CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068, CUSTER)
(Items by Lt. K. Bierwirth)

- **EXTERNAL AUDIENCE:** Lt Kris Bierwirth spoke to the local Rotary Club about the history of Civil Air Patrol, its capabilities and the benefits it provides to communities, counties, states and nation.

- **LEGISLATIVE DAY:** Lt Kris Bierwirth, C/2nd LT Jason Parry, C/MSgt Thomas Dillon, C/A1C Antony Dillon and C/AB Hunter Rice attended the Legislative Day in Pierre. We were impressed with the Capitol building and the way legislation works. For some cadets it was their first time to the Capitol and meet with the Governor. Lt Bierwirth arranged for a private tour of the Supreme Court room and the Law library.

- **WINTER SURVIVAL SCHOOL:** C/MSgt Thomas Dillon, C/A1C Anthony Dillon and C/AB Hunter Rice attended the Winter Survival School and Cadet Leadership Academy. They came back more confident in their skills and in their training. They realized they do know their duty positions and what is expected of them.

RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-031, RAPID CITY)
(Item by Maj. Craig Goodrich)

- **NEW MEMBERS:** Welcome aboard to new Senior Member Carl Lustywallis and new Cadets Theodore Tornow and Caleb Weller! We are pleased that you’ve decided to join Civil Air Patrol and proud that you are members of our squadron.

★★ PROMOTIONS ★★

Senior Member Promotions

Congratulations to Tucker Ulmer of Big Sioux Composite Squadron and to Douglas Robbins and Timothy Shannon of Rushmore Composite Squadron on their promotion to the rank of Captain!

Congratulations to Tom Delaney of Big Sioux Composite Squadron and to Roy Weller of Rushmore Composite Squadron on their promotion to the rank of Second Lieutenant!

Congratulations to Travis Woodard of the Rushmore Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Flight Officer!
**Cadet Officer Promotions**

Although not a promotion *per se*, congratulations to Tyler Gross of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron on attaining Leadership Officer (Achievement 12/Phase IV - Executive), the first ghost rank in rising to Cadet Major!

Congratulations to Jason Parry of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Second Lieutenant and receipt of the milestone General Billy Mitchell Award!

**Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions**

Congratulations to Jaden Petersen of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron and to Josiah Huntington of the Sioux Falls Composite squadron on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Chief Master Sergeant and receipt of the Dr. Robert H. Goddard Award!

Congratulations to Hannah Becker of the Pierre Composite Squadron, to Steven Diaconu of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron and to Austin Rauscher of the Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Master Sergeant and receipt of the Charles Lindbergh Award!

Congratulations to Nathaniel Fleet of Big Sioux Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Technical Sergeant and receipt of the Captain Eddie Rickenbacker Award!

**Cadet Airman Promotions**

Congratulations to Andrew Toft of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Senior Airman and receipt of the Mary Feik Award!

Congratulations to Malia Goodrich and Noah Misselt of the Rushmore Composite Squadron, to Robert Boecker of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, to Anthony Dillon of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron and to John Hall of Pierre Composite Squadron on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the General Hap Arnold Award!

Congratulations to Darin Burke of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron and to Taylor Umland-Moyer of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman and receipt of the General J.F. Curry Award!
Congratulations to Capt. James Dillon of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron on earning Technician Level in the Specialty Track – Cadet Programs in the Senior Member Professional Development Program!

Congratulations to Lt. Kris Bierwirth of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron on a double achievement! She earned Senior Level in the Specialty Track – Personnel and Senior Level in the Specialty Track – Administration in the Senior Member Professional Development Program!

Congratulations to SM Kevin Gross and to SM Clifford Wippel of Rushmore Composite Squadron on their receipt of the Membership Ribbon! The award is presented for completion of Level I of the Senior Member Professional Development Program. SM Wippel has been assigned as the squadron’s Homeland Security Officer. SM Gross has been assigned as squadron’s Assistant IT Officer and as the Assistant Communications Officer.

Congratulations to 1st Lt. Victoria Bierwirth on her induction into the "Order of the Engineer" in a ceremony on 17 February at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. According to the Order's website, “the Order of the Engineer was instituted in the United States to foster the spirit of pride and responsibility in the engineering profession, to bridge the gap between training and experience, and to present to the public a visible symbol identifying the engineer. Since then, annual ceremonies are held at which graduate and registered engineers are invited to accept the Obligation of the Engineer and having done so are presented with a stainless steel ring.” In the U.S. the engineer’s Ring is worn on the fifth finger of the working hand by engineers who have accepted the Obligation of an Engineer in a Ring Ceremony.

Fitzugh "Fitz" Fulton, a highly decorated Air Force and NASA test pilot, died on Feb. 4 at the age of 89. Fulton joined the Air Force in 1943. He flew 225 Berlin Airlift missions from 1948-1949 in C-54s. During the Korean War, Fulton flew 55 combat missions in the Douglas B-26 Invader and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and five air medals for combat heroism. In 1952, Fulton graduated USAF's Experimental Test Pilot School (later honored as the school's first "distinguished alumnus"). He is credited as one of the "greatest multi-engine test pilots of his generation" and was awarded an additional three Distinguished Flying Cross medals for his test pilot work. Fulton was chief of the Bomber Transport Operations Test Division at Edwards AFB, Calif., and was the only USAF pilot to fly the atomic-powered NB-38H, according to his profile in the National Aviation Hall of Fame. He set an international altitude record of 85,360 feet flying the B-58 in 1962 and was awarded that year's Harmon International Aviation Trophy for his work with the program. After a 23-year Air Force career, Fulton became a civilian research pilot for NASA. He participated in tests of the 747
shuttle carrier aircraft, the XB-70 prototype supersonic bomber, as well as the YF-12A and YF-12C. By the time he retired from NASA in 1986, Fulton had more than 15,000 hours in over 200 types of aircraft.

HOT NEWS: A ceremony will be held to present a posthumous CAP Congressional Gold medal to the family of Earl Wilkenson. The ceremony will be at 9:00am on Wednesday, 8 April in the Dorr Room in the Surbeck Center on the SD School of Mines campus in Rapid City. U.S. Rep Kristi Noem will make the presentation to the family. There will be a reception afterwards.

HOT NEWS: The 2015 South Dakota Wing Conference is set for 17-19 April in Pierre. The host hotel is the Clubhouse Inn and Suites. The guest speaker for the banquet is U.S. representative Kristi Noem. In addition, she will present a posthumous CAP Congressional Gold medal to the family of John Gibson “Jack” Rae Jr., father of Wing Chaplain Rae. You can register for the conference on Eventbrite or you can send a check to the Wing Administrator. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/south-dakota-cap-wing-conference-2015-tickets-15818974980

•  CAP’S TEAM BIG SIOUX WINS SECOND PLACE IN NATIONAL CYBERPATRIOT-VII: The cadet cyber-security team of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron won second place in the national finals of the Air Force Association’s seventh annual CyberPatriot Competition held in Washington, D.C. from 11-15 March. In addition, they were the top Civil Air Patrol team in the competition.

The team from Brookings competed in the “All Service Division” national finals for the fourth year in a row against teams from the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Junior ROTC programs, the Naval Sea Cadet Corps and the Civil Air Patrol. In CyberPatriot-VII 1,007 teams competed in the All Services Division, 400 teams from CAP units. Only the top two teams from each organization in the All Services Division got to go to the national finals. “We are extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Big Sioux squadron in their pursuit of being the top team in the competition. A lot of hard work and dedication goes into preparation for this competition and to be the top Civil Air Patrol team in the nation is no easy feat.” Said Colonel John Seten, the Wing Commander of the South Dakota Civil Air Patrol.
In the national finals 28 teams, 13 from the All Service Division, competed to defend virtual networks and mobile devices from a professional aggressor team. The national finalists also faced off in four additional competition components: the Digital Cyber Crime Scene Challenge from the Digital Forensic Consortium, the Cisco Networking Challenge, the Leidos Digital Forensics Challenge and a Mobile Application Challenge hosted by AT&T. The teams were scored on how quickly and effectively they established and maintained secure networks.

Team Big Sioux consists of Team Captain C/Maj Joshua Klosterman of Brandon, C/2\textsuperscript{nd} Lt Chris Dinnel, C/CMSgt Jaden Petersen and C/TSGt Nathaniel Fleet, all from Lake Benton, MN, and C/2\textsuperscript{nd} Lt Laura Rudnik of Brookings. The team is coached by Capt. Shannon Hofer of Hendricks, MN, who is the Big Sioux Composite Squadron commander as well as the South Dakota Wing's Director of Information Technology and Web Security Administrator and mentored by Cadet Captain Tyler Gross of Volga.

CyberPatriot VII began last October with more than 2,100 teams from all 50 states, Canada and Department of Defense dependent schools in Europe and the Pacific. After two months of rigorous online challenges, the Open Division and All Service Division teams were divided into three tiers: Platinum, Gold and Silver. Team Big Sioux was placed in the Platinum Tier. The teams continued to compete within their tiers for state awards and advancement to the regional/category round. Only teams in the top Platinum tier were eligible to advance to national finals competition.

**PIERRE SAREX:** SDWG conducted a Search and Rescue Exercise in Pierre 20-22 March. It focused on training aircrews, ground search teams and command staff to react to an emergency services situation. It tested their ability to plan, coordinate and conduct missions based on realistic training scenarios that mirror the CAP’s real-world activity. Four of the Wing’s aircraft, several vehicles and some 40 officers and cadets took part. A Mission Base was set up at the Mustang Aviation Facility at Pierre Regional Airport. The aircraft flew sorties...
searching for a simulated crashed aircraft crash (ELT search) and carried out a photo survey of ice jams on the Missouri River south of Pierre. Three Ground Search Teams conducted similar training exercises.

SAREXs such as this give participants the opportunity to work with other SDWG units that don’t often have the chance to train together with massed assets. For the Pierre SAREX there were participants from five squadrons present. In addition, there were two observers present from the CAP-USAF North Central Liaison Region, Lt. Col. Jeff Meyers and Mr. Greg Meyer, the Director and Assistant Director of Operations respectively. Lt. Col. Meyers complimented everyone for their training, communication and ability to self-critique at the after action review. The principal benefit of training such as this is teamwork; the coordination between command staff, aircrews and ground teams. In addition, a great deal of individual skills training was accomplished.

SDWG thanks Mustang Aviation of Pierre for use of their state of the art facility for the SAREX.

- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS**: SDWG flew aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife on 5 days in March in support of the state Department of Game, Fish & Parks and South Dakota State University. GF&P surveys deer, goats, mountain lions, and elk while SDSU surveys elk, bobcats and big horn sheep. The result was 21.7 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. The CAP pilot for one of the flights was Maj. Craig Goodrich, the rest were flown by Lt. Col. Gary Hewett. Depending on whom the sortie supported he was accompanied either by representatives from SDSU or from Game, Fish & Parks.

- **COMMAND LIAISON**: On 5 March, Col. Seten, Lt. Col. Larson and Lt. Manny Steele flew to Pierre to meet senior state officials. They spoke with Mr. Todd Dravland, Chief Engineer of the SD State Radio System on the status of radio repeaters and to express SDWG’s appreciation for the support we get from the state’s Bureau of Information and Telecommunications. They also met with Ms. Tina Titze, Director of the Office of Emergency Management, to discuss ways CAP could help with the upcoming motorcycle rally in Sturgis and other ways SDWG. Finally, they spoke with the Trudy Wastweet, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, on how SDWG may be able to assist them with wildland fire spotting and other possible missions.
On 30 March, Col. Seten and Lt. Col. Larson returned to Pierre to meet Mr. Kelly Hepler, the new Secretary of Game, Fish and Parks and Mr. Lucas Lentsch, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture.

**CORSON OUT-OF-CONTROL BURN:** On 26 March, Col. Seten learned that what was supposed to have been a controlled burn of lumber from a dismantled grain elevator had gotten out of control and spread. Having decided to take photos of the fire from the air that SDWG would share with local responders he went to our hangar at the Sioux Falls airport and took one of the Wing’s aircraft aloft. On landing he uploaded the photos and made them available to the local media. In addition, he sent the photos to all of the fire chiefs in Minnehaha County along with a note about the services SDWG can provide and how to task us in the event of need. Check out KELO’s report: [http://kelo.com/news/articles/2015/mar/26/corson-grain-elevator-fire-close-highway-11/](http://kelo.com/news/articles/2015/mar/26/corson-grain-elevator-fire-close-highway-11/)

**BOY SCOUT AVIATION MERIT BADGE EVENT:** On 7 March, Scott Wurzburger, Aviation Merit Badge Counselor, brought five Boy Scouts from Wyoming and South Dakota with two leaders to Rapid City Regional Airport in conjunction with visiting Ellsworth AFB. The Scouts were present to work on their Aviation Merit Badge. SDWG’s Lt. Col. Gary Hewett showed the group through the flight planning facilities at Westjet Air Center, described and demonstrated the preflight checks of a CAP Cessna-182T aircraft, and escorted them through the aircraft maintenance facility at L&D Aero. He also spoke about the origin of CAP and our missions. The scouts were also going to visit the Rapid City Regional Airport control tower. This merit badge event is held every year in early March so it is likely the Boy Scouts will want to coordinate this with us again.
BOY SCOUT AVIATION MERIT BADGE CANDIDATES AND THE THREE SCOUT LEADERS (IN UNIFORM, STRIPED SHIRT AND KNEELING)

- **SDWG ON SDPB-TV**: 29 March was a special day for SDWG. That afternoon several members of the wing were interviewed on camera by a crew from South Dakota Public Broadcasting for the television program “Dakota Life”. Paul Ebsen, an associate producer from SDPB is very enthusiastic about CAP and interested in our Wing’s history. Wing Commander Col. John Seten addressed CAP’s aviation, missions, funding, and history. Wing Chaplain Lt. Col. Gary Rae, dressed in WWII-era CAP uniform, addressed CAP’s WWII history and current cadet programs. He also built a large scale replica of a J-3 that CAP used during its wartime sub-chasing missions that he brought to display. In addition, Chaplain Rae spoke about his dad, John "Jack" Rae, who was a WWII era CAP member in Pennsylvania and who will posthumously receive a Congressional Gold Medal from Rep. Kristi Noem at the wing conference in April. Capt. Neil Schmid, of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron also addressed aviation and CAP operations. Wing Historian and Government Relations Advisor Maj. Todd Epp who arranged and coordinated the event also spoke about the history of the CAP and of the South Dakota Wing. The Sioux Falls based Cessna-172 and “glass cockpit” Cessna-182 were in the hangar for filming. Later Maj. Todd Epp commented, “This is a great opportunity for the Wing to get some excellent exposure and celebrate what we have done and what we do.” The segment SDPB shot in Sioux Falls is scheduled to air on Dakota Life at 8 p.m. CT Thursday on SDPB-1. It will also be available online at sdpb.org.
NEW OVERSEAS CAP SQUADRON: In March a new CAP squadron was activated at the U.S. Air Base at RAF Mildenhall in England. SMSgt Sharreen Taylor, of USAF's 100th Operations Support Squadron, was appointed to the grade of CAP First Lieutenant and assumed command of the unit. “The focus for our cadets is aerospace education, along with leadership, character building and physical training," Taylor said. "We will also provide some training on ground search and rescue qualifications for the cadets, so that when they go back to the states and join whatever unit they go to they will already be trained and qualified in some of those things.”

24TH AIR FORCE BOSS CITES VALUE OF CYBERPATRIOT: [Edited] Maj. Gen. Burke Wilson, the commander of 24th Air Force, extolled the value of the Air Force Association’s CyberPatriot program during testimony before the House Armed Services Committee on 4 March, saying the program helps students develop skills needed to become part of the future cyber security force. He highlighted the CyberPatriot-VII National Finals competition as an example. The event, sponsored by the AFA and supported by several industry partners, "as well as cyber professionals from the Air Force," seeks "to encourage students to pursue cybersecurity and other STEM careers," said Burke. This year's competition involved over 2,100 teams with more than 10,000 students from the US, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Defense Department schools overseas.

POWDER RIVER AIR TRAINING COMPLEX EXPANSION APPROVED: The FAA approved USAF’s plan to expand the Powder River Training Complex to create the continental US' largest training airspace by year's end. "After nearly nine years working with the Air Force on this important expansion project, we're not only going to see savings to the tune of $23 million a year at Ellsworth [AFB, S.D.], but we're also going to offer better training opportunities to our airmen," said Sen. Jon Thune (S.D.), who pushed the project. Powder River will expand to 35,000 square miles—nearly four times its current size—spanning the Dakotas, Montana, and Wyoming. The expanded range will give B-1s from Ellsworth and B-52s from Minot AFB, N.D., training venues close to home, saving time, fuel, and wear and tear on aircraft commuting to and from distant ranges. Powder River will be divided into high, medium, and low-altitude sectors, with provision for 10 days of large-force exercise annually.

WING CHIEF OF STAFF
Maj. David Small, Jr., CAP

Many of you may not be aware that the South Dakota Wing has a YouTube channel. Col. Seten has put a short video on how to put fuel receipts into WMIRS. More useful clips will be added on other CAP Wing topics. If you subscribe to the channel you will automatically notified of new material. Please put it on your watch list: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtQ-80lRlhiOThw4IYBo89Q

You are going miss out on valuable wing info if you do not subscribe to the wing Twitter and Facebook page. When new videos are put on YouTube it will be announced on Facebook and Twitter, not by email.

Facebook Public: http://www.facebook.com/SDWingCAP
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Twitter: https://twitter.com/SDWingCAP
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Flickr: https://www.flickr.com/photos/102270464@N02/sets
WING DIRECTOR OF AEROSPACE EDUCATION
Lt. Col. Rodney “Buck” DeWeese, CAP

- **OPERATION “JOINT EFFORT”:** Calling all Team Builders! Let’s stop talking about FLYING airplanes. Let’s actually BUILD one for a change! That’s right. A plastic model Cessna 172 or 182 has been delivered to each squadron for a “JOINT EFFORT” between Senior Members and Cadets to see who can build the best of the best. The finished aircraft must be delivered to Wing Conference on Saturday, 18 April for judging by Wing Staff and a “SPECIAL” guest judge who shall remain nameless at this point. There no losers in this competition because each unit gets to proudly display their “teamwork” in their home Squadron. The top 3 finishers get to choose from a Remote Piloted Vehicle with camera, a Remote Controlled Aircraft, and a Rocket with launcher. So let’s get out your utility tools, glue and paint brushes get started. Show us what you can do together as a team. Deadline is only 3 weeks away!

### SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

**BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-58, BROOKINGS)**
(See item in Promotions Section under Cadet Officer Promotion)

**CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068, CUSTER)**
(Items and photos by Lt. K. Bierwirth)

- **CUSTER TRADE SHOW:** Squadron members served as welcomers/greeters at the Custer Area Chamber of Commerce Trade Show on 7 March at Custer High School. The show hosted a variety of exhibitors ranging from financial services and building materials to jewelry and artwork. Some of the visitors were interested in learning more about CAP and others congratulated us for great efforts that they read about in the paper. In the photo are C/Lt. Jason Parry and Capt. Richard Geeting.

- **DEVIL’S GULCH:** C/Lt Jason Parry was involved in the Custer Area Arts Council dinner theater “The Legend of Devil’s Gulch” in the role of Cowboy Rick. Many squadron members were in attendance. Jason has had substantial experience on the stage in a variety of roles.

- **DESTINATION IMAGINATION:** Cadet Hunter Rice travelled to Huron to compete in the Destination Imagination (DI) competition. If his team wins they will compete in the Global Finals in Tennessee. DI is an educational non-profit organization that teaches 21st century skills and STEM principles to students through creative and collaborative problem solving challenges. Teams work to develop a solution to one of seven open-ended challenges and present their solutions at tournaments. At a tournament teams solve two types of Challenges: Team and Instant. Teams perform their challenge solutions to a group of Appraisers. DI teams that advance past tournaments are invited to the Global Finals, the culminating event of the DI season - the world's largest celebration of creativity. Good luck Cadet Rice!

- **NEW MEMBER:** Welcome aboard to Jon Larcher our newest cadet! We are pleased you decided to join CAP and proud that you are in our squadron.
CPR CLASS: On 12 March the squadron hosted a CPR class for the community. Eight squadron members and one civilian certified in the technique. Aaron Bostel from Regional Health taught the class.

In the photo Cadet Hunter Rice (left) and C/A1C Anthony Dillon (right) practice their newly learned skill on a training device.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-063, SPEARFISH)
(Items by Lt. Col. Hopewell, photos by Capt. Collister)

- COLOR GUARD PERFORMANCE: A cadet Color Guard helped kick off the annual convention of the Fraternal Services National Mutual Benefit. On 28 February, Spearfish cadets posted and guarded the colors at The Lodge in Deadwood where NMB held its gathering. C/CMSgt Justin Harris, C/Lt Jared Doyle, C/MSgt Austin Rauscher and C/SSgt Peter Iverson made up the Color Guard while C/CMSgt Connor Caneva added his expertise in inspection and coaching of the posting party. Senior Members Capt. Bill Collister and Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese added to CAP’s presence. This was a repeat performance for the Color Guard as they have performed for the group at their conferences in the past. The professionalism of the Color Guard in the past was in the minds of the organizers as they planned this meeting.

- CAP BOOTH AT SPEARFISH HOME SHOW: On the weekend of 7/8 March the Optimist Club-sponsored Home Show and Health Fair was held at Black Hills State University in Spearfish. In the huge Young Center Field House, flanked by trade representatives and vendors, and civic groups, the squadron staffed an information booth for the erudition of the thousands of attendees. Spearheading the undertaking was Capt. Bill Collister with Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese and Lt. Col. Jim Hopewell furnishing support and adjunct staffing. Multimedia displays, model rockets and aircraft, and static displays of R/C UAV’s bedecked the booth, along with printed informational brochures. The display attracted a number of inquiries about CAP from adult guests, many accompanied by cadet-age-eligible relatives.

PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-38, PIERRE)
(Item and photo by Lt. Col. Gatje)

- OPERATION JOINT EFFORT: Cadets and seniors began work on “Operation Joint Effort”, the Wing’s model aircraft building competition. The team worked on the model during a meeting and will continue to do so at meetings and outside of them. The glue, paint, paint brushes and other tools were collected from members to get the project under way. Judging of each squadron’s aircraft will be at the Wing Conference. Everyone is hopeful of building the winning entry and winning one of the cool prizes.
RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-031, RAPID CITY)
(Item submitted by Maj. Goodrich)

- **KIWANIS PANCAKE FUNDRAISER**: Members of the squadron provided support to the local chapter of the Kiwanis International at their pancake breakfast fundraising event Sunday, 15 March. We helped with general duties, served juice, bussed tables and helped with clean up at the VFW facility in downtown Rapid City. The Kiwanis has traditionally been a great supporter of CAP programs. Squadron Commander Maj. Goodrich commented, “We just wanted to show our gratitude to the Kiwanis Club for all their support to us in the past.”

SIOUX FALLS COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-050, SIOUX FALLS)
(Items Capt. Erickson, Capt. West, photos by SDANG/PAO)

- **KINGSWOOD FUNDRAISER**: On Saturday, the 14th of March, in a fund-raising event, members of the squadron caravanned to the west side of Sioux Falls to deliver Kingswood Rummage Sale packets. On arrival we picked up 1,800 packets and distributed them to each door in the assigned neighborhoods within a four hour period. The Kingswood Rummage Sale is the largest organized rummage sale in South Dakota. Each year this four-day event is held in April. Some 300-350 rummage sales are held in Kingswood area homes in this event. The squadron receives a donation from the Kingswood Rummage Committee for delivering the packets.

- **AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE TOUR**: On 19 March, the squadron arranged a special tour of Joe Foss Field, the SD Air National Guard Base, the F16s and to view the fighters taking off on night sorties. As no personal vehicles are allowed on-base we drove over in CAP vans.
**PROMOTIONS**

**Cadet Officer Promotion**

Congratulations to Joshua Klosterman of Big Sioux Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Lieutenant Colonel and receipt of the milestone Ira Eaker award! The Eaker Award marks the final level of Phase IV – The Executive Phase of the Cadet Program. It takes a tremendous amount of time, energy, enthusiasm and dedication to reach this milestone.

**Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions**

Congratulations to Blake Hayden of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Chief Master Sergeant and receipt of the Dr. Robert H. Goddard Award!

Congratulations to Julia Lair of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron and to Graham Dinnel of Big Sioux Composite Squadron on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Technical Sergeant and receipt of the Captain Eddie Rickenbacker Award!

Congratulations to Kyle Clement of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Staff Sergeant and receipt of the Wright Brothers Award!

**Cadet Airman Promotions**

Congratulations to Dylan Purkapile of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron and to Johnathan Busch of Rushmore Composite Squadron on their promotion to Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the General Hap Arnold Award!

**KUDOS**

- C/Lt Jason Parry of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron was presented with the Air Force Association Award for Outstanding Cadet by USAF 1st Sgt Scott Marsich (Ret.). C/Lt Parry was also presented the Air Force Sergeants Award for Outstanding Cadet by USAF MSgt Christina McCormick.
Congratulations to Lt. Lisa Swanson of the Rushmore Composite Squadron for completion of Level II of CAP’s Senior Member Professional Development Program! In recognition thereof she has received the Benjamin O. Davis Jr. Award!

- On 20 March, C/Maj Brandon West, supervised by Lt. Col. Greg Lair, successfully completed his initial check ride in a CAP Cessna-172. According to CAPR 60-1, *CAP Flight Management*, para 3-1, a successfully completed Flight Evaluation denotes qualification to fly a particular model of CAP aircraft. The check ride consists of ground and flight evaluations. Brandon is now qualified to fly a CAP Cessna-172 alone or take up senior members. Further laurels - he successfully checked out in a CAP Cessna-182 about eight months ago.

CAP pilot Lt. Col. Greg Lair, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, achieved a significant aviation milestone. In his day job, he is USAF Col. Lair, Operations Group Commander of the 114th Fighter Wing of the SDANG.

On 11 March he and USAF Lt. Col. Eric Knutson, completed 3,000 career flight hours in the F-16 Fighting Falcon when they landed after a training sortie at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls. Upon landing they were met by family members, friends and SDANG colleagues who congratulated them. 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. In addition to Col. Lair and Lt. Col. Knutson, the commander of the 175th Fighter Squadron, Lt. Col. Todd Sheridan, is the only other current member of the SDANG to have reached this milestone.

“The South Dakota Wing of the Civil Air Patrol is honored to have Lt. Col. Lair as a member. His experience as an Air Force pilot is of great value to our organization.” said Colonel John Seten the Wing Commander for the SD Civil Air Patrol.

When not on duty with the South Dakota Air National Guard or flying for the Civil Air Patrol, Greg Lair is a pilot for United Airlines. USAF Lt. Col. Eric Knutson is Chief of Safety at the SDANG 114th Fighter Wing.
REDCAP (Mission 15-M-0154 ELT/EPIRB): The Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Tyndall AFB, FL. placed South Dakota Wing on alert late in the evening on Easter Sunday. AFRCC had received multiple reports from aircraft over the Sioux Falls area of an Emergency Locater Transmitter (ELT) active. The aircraft hear the signal when coming in to Sioux Falls, but do not hear it when they are on the ground. The geographic area encompasses the tri-border area of southeast South Dakota, southwest Minnesota and northwest Iowa.

A Sioux Falls based Cessna-182/G1000, with an aircrew of Mission Pilot Lt. Jerald Hayden, Capt. Karla West (MO) and SSgt. David Stockinger (MS), took off and began executing an expanding circle search pattern. Shortly after takeoff the aircraft’s radio-direction-finding sensor picked up the ELT’s signal. Through analysis the aircraft crew determined the signal was coming from vicinity of Larchwood, IA.

In addition to the aircraft, two ground search teams were dispatched: one from Sioux Falls under command of Capt. Karen Espeland with C/Lt Nicholas Nash, C/Capt Nicole Schneider and C/Maj Brandon West; the other from Brookings under command of Lt. Thomas Delany, with SM Josh Hartelt, C/Lt Col Joshua Klosterman and C/Lt Laura Rudnik.

The signal was pinpointed as coming from the Zangger Vintage Airpark which is about two miles east of Larchwood. The airpark manager was contacted and he stated that one of the aircraft there had experienced a hard landing that must have caused the beacon to activate. The airpark manager went to the aircraft and silenced the ELT.

With mission accomplished, the aircraft and ground teams returned to base shortly after midnight Monday morning. Lt. Col. Rick Larson was the Incident Commander.
• **CAP NATIONAL COMMANDER VISITS SIOUX FALLS:** National Commander, Major General Joseph Vazquez, paid a brief visit to Sioux Falls on 12 April to meet with members of SDWG. Accompanying him was his wife, CAP Lieutenant Colonel Leslie Vazquez, Civil Air Patrol’s Aviation Industry Liaison. He briefed the attendees on upcoming/proposed organizational changes, operational issues, on closer relations with the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, and the effort to make CAP’s data interfaces more user-friendly. At the end he took questions from Wing members. SDWG Commander Col. Seten commented, “What a great opportunity for our members to hear the way ahead from the top, while we give leadership the view from the field. We really appreciate this visit. Maj. Gen. Vazquez assumed command at a formal ceremony at CAP’s 2014 National Conference. Prior to his appointment for a three year term as National Commander he served a three-year term as National Vice Commander with the grade of Brigadier General. The National Commander and National Vice Commander are the only two CAP officers who hold general’s grade.

![Maj. Gen. Vazquez](image1.png)

![General Vazquez with Attendees](image2.png)

![General Vazquez speaks to the group](image3.png)

• **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS:** SDWG flew ten aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over eight days in April in support of the state Department of Game, Fish & Parks and South Dakota State University. GF&P surveys deer, goats, mountain lions, and elk while SDSU surveys elk, bobcats and big horn sheep. The result was 31.4 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. The CAP pilot for six of the sorties was Lt. Col. Gary Hewett, the other four sorties were flown by Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese. Depending on whom the sortie supported he was accompanied by one or more representatives from SDSU or from Game, Fish & Parks.

• **LETTER OF APPRECIATION:** SDWG, and more specifically Lt. Col. Gary Hewett, received a Letter of Appreciation from Mr. Scott Wurzburger, an Aviation Merit Badge Counselor for Boy Scouts of America. As reported in the Skychaser last month, on 7 March, Mr. Wurzburger brought five Boy Scouts and two adult leaders to the Rapid City Regional Airport in conjunction with visiting Ellsworth AFB. The Scouts were working on their Aviation Merit Badge. SDWG’s Lt. Col. Gary Hewett escorted the group through the flight planning facilities at Westjet Air Center, described and demonstrated the preflight checks of a CAP Cessna-182T aircraft, and escorted them through the aircraft maintenance facility at L&D Aero. He also spoke about the origin of CAP and our missions. The scouts were also going to visit the Rapid City Regional Airport’s control tower. This merit badge event is held every year in early March so it is likely the Boy Scouts will want to coordinate this with us again.

• **2015 WING CONFERENCE:** South Dakota Wing held its 2015 Wing Conference on Saturday, 18 April at the Clubhouse Hotel and Suites in Pierre. About 85 officers and cadets from SDWG attended. Distinguished visitors were: North Central Region Commander, Col. Robert Todd; Nebraska Wing Commander Col. Darrell Nelson; Lt. Col. Bonnie Braun, NCR DDR Coordinator; Lt. Col. Don Barbalace, NHQ IG Team; and Capt. Chuck Brudtkuhl, NHQ Communications Team/IAWG Director of Communications.

The first part of the morning was a general session with wing staff officers and squadron commanders making presentations. The highlight of the morning was a skit titled “Daddy’s Girl” performed by cadets, under the
supervision of Lt. Col. Buechler, on the consequences of drunk driving. Following the general session the senior member participants split up to attend breakout sessions on a variety of administrative and operational issues. The cadets attended breakout sessions on DDR, AE, and the National Cadet Competition. In addition, the Wing Cadet Advisory Council met. The senior member and cadet breakout sessions lasted until the late afternoon when it was time to begin to prepare for the evening’s banquet and awards ceremony.

The guest speaker at the banquet was South Dakota Congresswoman Kristi Noem. Highlights of the banquet were presentation of the CAP Congressional Gold Medal to Wing Chaplain Lt. Col. Gary Rae, the son of WWII CAP veteran John Gibson “Jack” Rae Jr, and presentation of CAP membership credentials to Ms. Noem. In addition, a number of wing, squadron and individual awards were presented (see last page for award recipients).
The 2015 Joint Dakota Encampment sign up page is now live! Please go to www.sdcap.us/encampment to sign up! Sign up by the end of May before prices go up. Cadets, the forms you will need are on the webpage; CAPF 31, 32, 160, 161, 163. A packing list will soon be uploaded to the website. Please download the forms, and fill them out. Bring them with you to encampment. Please email me with questions at Nick_gengler@hotmail.com. Hope to see you all there!

A FEMA ICS-300 course will be held in Sioux Falls on 14-15 May. This course is needed for those who want to become an Emergency Services GBD, AOBD or other branch director. This course is infrequently taught in South Dakota and seldom in Sioux Falls. Sign up if you think that you might want to work as a branch director someday: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ics-300-intermediate-ics-for-expanding-incidents-sioux-falls-tickets-16617479328

SDWG conducts sorties each month in support of wildlife research programs of the state's Department of Game, Fish & Parks and South Dakota State University. The wildlife survey mission has been ongoing since 1999. SDWG's wildlife survey mission deserves a logo! This is not the design for a patch, but rather an emblem/logo that I can insert in all reporting on the wildlife survey mission. I’m calling on all budding graphic designers out there to come up with a cool logo. Don’t send words describing a logo, send me a jpeg of the logo you come up with. Be creative! You can submit as many logos as you wish. You can submit someone else's logo; however, you must obtain prior written approval from the copyright owner for us to use it. Judging will be by Col. Seten, Lt. Col. Larson and me. The deadline for logo submissions is Monday, 25 May.

Awards presentations at the 2015 Wing Conference began with the announcement of the winners of the model airplane build-off dubbed “Operation Joint Effort”. The aircraft were on display from 1200-1800 in the hotel
breezeway where everyone could see, admire and compare. All entries were exquisitely assembled and adorned with appropriate colors and appendages. Some had crewmembers standing by to marshal out of the chocks. Some had special features such as animal tracking antennae or cockpit crewmembers. They were all “special” in one way or another. Wing Staff were the judges.

Sioux Falls Composite Squadron took top honors and chose the camera-equipped, radio-operated Hover-copter.

Second place went to Rushmore Composite who chose the Powered Remote Controlled Airplane.

Third place was Big Sioux Composite Squadron who was awarded an air launched rocket for their efforts.

Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron did not place but their replica 1950 Cessna-170 was chosen to be placed in the SD Air National Guard Museum in Pierre for everyone to enjoy. Rushmore donated theirs as well.

Congresswoman Kristie Noem also got in on the judging. She chose to be the deciding vote in case of a tie, which did not happen. We did, however, award the winning aircraft to her to display in her trophy case for her efforts. Everyone was a winner in this competition. A special thanks for everyone who pitched in to help build these models.

**SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS**

**BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-58, BROOKINGS)**
(See Promotions Section under Cadet Officer Advancement)

**CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068, CUSTER)**
(Items by Lt. K. Bierwirth, photos by Lt. K. Bierwirth, Lt. V. Bierwirth and Capt. Foy)

- Our squadron is 100% into the new Cadet Wingman Course. The course is in building trust that even if you are unable to have all of your faculties your "wingman" is there to help and guide you.

In the trust building exercise in the photo neither person can touch the stick. The “wingman” has to guide the vision impaired cadet with voice commands and not drop the stick. It was pretty cool to watch it happen and guide them around the room without hitting an object.

(L-R) Cadet Larcher, Cadet Dillon and Cadet Rice

- C/2nd Lt Jason Parry was in his final play for the season in the show “Baker Street Irregulars”, where he played the role of Finnegan an orphaned street boy who helped Sherlock Holmes solve a murder. As previously reported in the Skychaser, Jason is an accomplished actor and has played several roles in several productions of his High School theater group.

- We may not have won Operation Joint Effort, the Wing model airplane building competition, but we did have fun building our model aircraft! In our eyes we did win, we got to enjoy our hard work in our squadron.
• **CADET ACHIEVES EAGLE SCOUT:** On occasion, it is good to recognize that our members are involved in other activities. There are many good programs to be involved in; one very recognizable one is Boy Scouts of America (BSA). On Saturday, April 25th, 2015, C/SSgt Peter Iverson was honored by his local Scout Troop and invited all of his squadron members to enjoy a happy day with him. Nine squadron members joined him as he was presented with the Eagle Scout award, the highest rank attainable in the BSA’s Boy Scouting program. This award takes years to earn through much hard work and perseverance. Peter joined the scouting program as a Cub Scout in Nebraska. He advanced through every stage of the program and “bridged over” from Webelos to Boy Scouting to continue his scouting career. A comparison to CAP’s cadet program would equate this to our Spaatz Award, the highest attainable level for youth in the CAP program. Neither Eagle Scout nor the Spaatz Award is common. Only the top few in each organization reach this level. We look forward to increased activity that he has pledged to CAP now that he has reached this goal. We are sure that CAP will benefit from his leadership abilities as well as his other knowledge that he brings to our program.

• **SQUADRON RECEIVES OPTIMIST GRANT:** On Main Street in downtown Spearfish the beautifully restored Matthews Opera House has hosted many events since 1906. On 1 April, the grand hall was host to the Optimist Club grant presentations. Much to our pleasure we were one of the recipients. Squadron Commander Capt. Bill Collister and Cadet Commander C/Lt Bradley Blansett were present to receive a $900 check from Optimist Club President Bob Mayer. Dressed in uniform, the duo elicited from the presenters the comment that they were the best dressed guests of the evening. Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese, a steady liaison with the Optimist Club of Spearfish, had submitted the grant request and followed it through the approval process. After thanking the Optimist Club, Blansett and Collister briefly described CAP missions and activities.


PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-038, PIERRE)
(Items submitted by Lt. Col. Gatje)

• **SQUADRON PILOTS TAKE PART IN FAA WINGS PROGRAM:** Lt. Col. Myra Christensen and Maj. Lee Vaughan recently participated in the FAA WINGS Pilot Proficiency Program. They went to Rapid City to attend the program that is designed to increase safety in general aviation. Completion of this phase of WINGS satisfies the requirement for a flight review. Lt. Col. Jerry Densmore organized the Rapid City presentation.

• **PIERRE CONTINUES TO HELP AMERICAN LEGION PROGRAM:** Squadron members Lt. Jonathan Becker, Lt. Col. Tam Gatje and C/Amn Margot Pearson along with Cadet Pearson’s father helped the American Legion serve the monthly member’s meal at the Pierre American Legion Cabin. This month’s meeting had been delayed while an improved floor was installed in the cabin. Squadron members have been providing help for the Legion and in return the Legion has made the cabin available providing a larger indoor space where cadets are able to practice drill indoors, especially during the winter and other inclement weather.
RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-031, RAPID CITY)
(Items and photo submitted by Maj. Goodrich)

- Maj. Goodrich flew the first of three planned Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps flights on 28 April. Two cadets from the Douglas High School USAF JROTC program in Box Elder, Cadet Staff Sergeant Nick Kochutin and Cadet Senior Airman Kevin Armstrong, went aloft.

USAF JROTC C/SSgt Kochutin is also Civil Air Patrol C/SrA Kochutin of Rushmore Composite Squadron.

In the photo Cadet Kochutin (Left), Cadet Armstrong (Right)

- Capt. Tim Shannon received his first Form-5 check ride. He’s now checked out as an Instructor Pilot (CFI - Certified Flight Instructor/CFII - Certified Flight Instructor – Instrument) in the Cessna-172.

- Capt. Lisa Swanson has been assigned as Professional Development Officer and Personnel Officer.

SIoux FALLS COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-050, SIOUX FALLS)
(Items by Capt. Erickson and Capt. West, photos by Capt. West)

- **CHALLENGE COIN AWARD**: On 2 April, the cadets had a surprise for their squadron commander at the weekly meeting. In an unusual twist, the cadet corps presented Squadron Commander Capt. Jason Erickson with a challenge coin to thank him for all the hard work he puts in for the cadets and for the squadron.

- **FAA SAFETY CONFERENCE**: The squadron, representing CAP, set up a table and talked about what we do at a seminar on 7 April at the Main Terminal Conference Room of Sioux Falls Regional Airport. The event, the “2015 annual Pilot & Airport Evening User Meeting”, provided current information on runway safety and airspace operational concerns. In addition, attendees had the opportunity to meet with FAA personnel from the Air Traffic Control, Flight Standards and South Dakota FAA Air Safety Team. As it turned out the event was packed, standing room only. Capt. Jason Erickson led the CAP contingent playing host, mingling and shaking hands. Senior members in attendance were Capt. Kurt Johnson, Capt. Karla West, Capt. Jerry Zurovski, Lt.
Dale Palmer and Capt. Joe Oye. The cadets; C/CMSgt Jaden Roblewsy, C/Lt Nicholas Nash, C/Amn Taylor Moyer and C/SSgt Kyle Clement did us proud as they always do, looking sharp and acting respectful.

- MINI-SAREX: The squadron held a mini-SAREX on 30 April. Exercise alert messages were issued by text and email for aircrew, ground teams and mission base personnel to assemble at the squadron headquarters. Two aircraft, two ground teams and 35 members participated as aircrew, ground search team members or mission base staff. In the first scenario the squadron’s Cessna-182, flew a “High Bird” mission to relay radio communications between mission base, the ground teams, and the Pierre squadron. In the second scenario the unit’s Cessna-172 flew an air search for persons stranded after a line of severe storms passed through the area. In the third scenario two ground search teams were dispatched to locate a missing turkey hunter. The unit’s Cessna-172 spotted the missing hunter and directed the ground search teams to the man’s location.

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**PROMOTIONS**

Senior Member Promotions

Congratulations to Elliott W. Filler of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Major!

Congratulations to Victoria Bierwirth of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron and to Lisa Swanson of Rushmore Composite Squadron on their promotion to the rank of Captain!

Cadet Officer Advancement

Although not a promotion *per se*, congratulations to Tyler Gross of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron on attaining Cadet Aerospace Officer (Achievement 13/Phase IV - Executive), the last ghost rank before rising to Cadet Major!

Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions

Congratulations to Nathaniel Fleet of Big Sioux Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Master Sergeant and receipt of the Charles Lindbergh Award!

Congratulations to Andrew Toft of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Staff Sergeant and receipt of the Wright Brothers Award!

Cadet Airman Promotions

Congratulations to Robert Boecker of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Airman and receipt of the Mary Feik Award!

Congratulations to Taylor Umland-Moyer on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the General Hap Arnold Award!
Congratulations to Jon Larcher and Hunter Rice, both of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron, on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman and receipt of the General J.F. Curry Award!

★★ KUDOS ★★

Congratulations to C/Maj Silas Busch of Rushmore Composite Squadron who was awarded a $1,000 flight scholarship from SDWG. The scholarship covers aircraft maintenance and fuel during flight training with an FAA Certificated Flight Instructor, in this case SDWG Lt. Col. Gary Hewett.

C/MAJ BUSCH PREFLIGHTS A CESSNA-172 ON 3-31-15

Congratulations to C/Capt Nicole Schneider of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on receiving an Outstanding Officer Award from the Air Force Association on 26 March. The award was presented to her by USAF Col. (CAP Lt. Col.) Greg Lair.

C/CAPT SCHNEIDER RECEIVES AWARD FROM COL LAIR

Congratulations to Capt. Morgan “Dani” Black of Rushmore Composite Squadron who received a $6,000 Jean Bartel Scholarship for Military Awareness from the Miss America Organization. Capt. Black’s participation in CAP was a boost for this scholarship. Congratulations of a different sort are also in order for Dani. On 25 April, she and Nick Kelley were married.
Congratulations to C/MSgt Steven Diaconu of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on receiving an Outstanding Noncommissioned Officer Award from the Air Force Association on 26 March. The award was presented to him by USAF Col. (CAP Lt. Col.) Greg Lair.

C/MSGT STEVEN DIACONU RECEIVES AWARD FROM COL LAIR

Congratulations to C/Maj Brandon West of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on being awarded a CAP academic scholarship! Each year CAP partners with its academic and organizational partners to award over $350,000 in scholarships to its members. Just recently C/Maj West was notified that he had been awarded a $1,000 academic scholarship provided by the United Services Automobile Association (USAA) insurance company. Cadet West was awarded the scholarship based on “superior performance as a student, citizenship, and Civil Air Patrol achievements”, according to Steven Trupp, CAP Cadet Program Manager. USAA provides academic scholarships each year to three outstanding cadets for assistance in pursuing undergraduate education. Brandon is working towards a degree in the University of Minnesota’s School of Nursing Honor Program.

On 27 April, Brandon attended the 2015 Associated School Boards of South Dakota Academic Excellence Recognition banquet in Pierre. The luncheon honors the top 1% of South Dakota high-school seniors who excel in student achievement. Approximately 500 students, parents and educators attended the annual event. South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard was the keynote speaker.

CAP SURROGATE PREDATOR

By Jeanne Dailey, Air Force Research Laboratory Kirtland Air Force Base - [Edited] The Air Force Research Laboratory's Surrogate Predator program has given the warfighter a way to train in the U.S. before deploying overseas. AFRL's Directed Energy Directorate at Kirtland modified a CAP Cessna-206T aircraft as a Surrogate Predator for military training exercises. The aircraft has intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) sensors that mimic a Predator unmanned aerial vehicle. AFRL, part of the Surrogate Predator program since 2008, recently delivered the Enhanced Surrogate Predator 3 to CAP, according to program manager J. P. Sena. According to Sena, “The Enhanced Surrogate Predator 3 is a redesign of the first two surrogate predators which
had a wing-mounted turret. We designed the CAP Cessna-206T with a retractable turret stowed in the belly of the aircraft that allows for longer flight times by reducing drag when the turret is not in operation. The operator station was ergonomically designed to allow for more leg room, ease of controls, a central location for all the equipment and a plethora of capabilities for the sensor operator."

The Surrogate Predator is used in green flag exercises, where the Air Force and its allied air forces engage in air-land integration combat training exercises. "With the use of the Surrogate Predator during green flag exercises, troops training for deployment get experience with what they will see overseas while the government can keep the high-value assets overseas to continue to complete missions," said Sena. "Our government saves millions by keeping the assets in theater and completing training using the Surrogate Predators."

CAP has used Surrogate Predators 1 and 2 in relief efforts for disasters such as Hurricane Sandy in 2012 and for homeland security and search and rescue missions as well as military combat exercises such as Green Flag.

In the photo a Surrogate Predator 3 is prepared for takeoff. ISR sensors were added to the CAP Cessna-206T to mimic a Predator unmanned aerial vehicle. AFRL’s Directed Energy Directorate at Kirtland AFB, modified the CAP aircraft for use in military training exercises.

UNITS/INDIVIDUALS WHO RECEIVEDawARDS AT THE 2015 SOUTH DAKOTA WING CONFERENCE BANQUET

NORTH CENTRAL REGION “Of The Year” AWARD

Lt. Col. Linda Buechler, NCR Drug Demand Reduction Officer of the Year   SDWG Staff

SOUTH DAKOTA WING "Of the Year" AWARDS

Col Robert V. “Bud” Payton Public Affairs Officer of the Year
1st Lt. Kris Bierwirth  Crazy Horse Composite Squadron

Aerospace Education Officer of the Year
1st Lt. Victoria Bierwirth  Crazy Horse Composite Squadron

Public Affairs Officer of the Year
Lt. Col. William Hopewell  Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron

Drug Demand Reduction Member of the Year
Lt. Col. Linda Buechler  Wing Staff

Professional Development Officer of the Year
Capt. Karen Espeland  Sioux Falls Composite Squadron

Cadet Program Officer of the Year
Lt. Col. Myra Christensen  Pierre Composite Squadron

Cadet NCO of the Year
C/MSgt Steven Diaconu  Sioux Falls Composite Squadron

Cadet of the Year
C/Lt Col Joshua Klosterman  Big Sioux Composite Squadron

Senior Member of the Year
Capt. Neil Schmid  Sioux Falls Composite Squadron

Squadron of the Year
Big Sioux Composite Squadron  Sioux Falls

Quality Cadet Unit Award
Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron  Spearfish
Rushmore Composite Squadron  Rapid City

Squadron of Merit Award
Sioux Falls Composite Squadron  Sioux Falls

SOUTH DAKOTA WING INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Achievement Awards
Capt. James Dillon  Crazy Horse Composite Squadron
Lt. Col. Gregory Lair  

Sioux Falls Composite Squadron

**Commander’s Commendations**

2nd Lt. Manford Steele  
Sioux Falls Composite Squadron  
Maj. David Small Jr.  
Wing Staff  
Capt. Jerome Foy  
Wing Staff  
Capt. Elliot Filler  
Big Sioux Composite Squadron  
Capt. Karen Espeland  
Sioux Falls Composite Squadron  
Capt. Sylvia Small  
Wing Staff  
Maj. Sharon Moad  
Crazy Horse Composite Squadron  
C/Capt Nicole Schneider  
Sioux Falls Composite Squadron  
C/Capt Samuel Huntington  
Sioux Falls Composite Squadron  
C/2nd Lt Bradley Blansett  
Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron  
C/CMSgt Justin Harris  
Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron  
C/2nd Lt Devon Brown  
Sioux Falls Composite Squadron  
C/Col William Small  
Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron

**Search and Rescue “Find” Ribbon**

Col. Mike Beason  
Wing Staff  
C/2nd Lt Bradley Blansett  
Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron  
Capt. William Collister  
Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron  
C/1st Lt Jared Doyle  
Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron  
Maj. Craig Goodrich  
Rushmore Composite Squadron  
C/A1C Malia Goodrich  
Rushmore Composite Squadron  
Capt. Joshua Hall  
Rushmore Composite Squadron  
C/SMSgt Ryan Harris  
Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron  
C/CMSgt Justin Harris  
Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron  
Lt. Col. Gary Hewett  
Rushmore Composite Squadron  
1st Lt. Ryan Jones  
Rushmore Composite Squadron  
Maj. Bruce Kipp  
Wing Staff  
Lt. Col. Deryl Miles  
Wing Staff  
Capt. Patrick Nowlin  
Rushmore Composite Squadron  
C/M Sgt Austin Rauscher  
Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron  
C/M Sgt Keyvin Rauscher  
Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron  
Maj. David Small Jr.  
Wing Staff
DELмонт tornado: On Sunday, 10 May, at 10:45 local time an EF-2 tornado with winds over 100mph roared through the small town of Delmont, located about 90 southwest of Sioux Falls. The town of about 200 lost all power, water and telephone service. 84 structures in and around Delmont were damaged or destroyed. Fortunately there were no fatalities, however at least nine people were injured and some livestock were killed. Hardest hit was the western edge of the town suffering the majority of the damage. The town’s new fire hall and a Lutheran Church bore the brunt of the tornado’s fury.
Mission Scanner Capt. Karla West. Nearly 200 high resolution photos were taken and provided to emergency management officials, first responders and the media.

- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS**: SDWG flew seven aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over four days in May for the state Department of Game, Fish & Parks and South Dakota State University. GF&P surveys deer, goats, mountain lions, and elk while SDSU surveys elk, bobcats and big horn sheep. The result was 21.8 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. The CAP pilot for five of the sorties was Lt. Col. Gary Hewett; one was flown by Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese and one by Maj. Craig Goodrich. Depending on whom the sortie supported they were accompanied by one or more researchers from SDSU or from GF&P.

- **CUSTER SAREX**: Aircraft, vehicles and personnel from four SDWG’s squadrons and members and an aircraft from Nebraska Wing’s Pine Ridge Composite Squadron (Chadron, NE) gathered at the Custer County Airport for a Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) the weekend of 29-31 May. The goal of the exercise was to provide task-specific training for Civil Air Patrol members. Short, realistic scenarios were presented to the aircrews, ground teams and mission base staff members to work through. Aircrews searched for simulated aircraft emergency locator beacons, rehearsed search patterns, and took simulated damage assessment photos. Ground team personnel also searched for simulated aircraft emergency locator beacons and worked with Custer County Search and Rescue during a missing person scenario in which CAP ground teams searched for an actor in a forested area near the Custer County Airport.

According to CAP Major Craig Goodrich, Incident Commander for the exercise, “Thunderstorms on Friday and fog on Saturday morning did not stop the show. The aircrews and ground teams were ready to go Saturday when the weather cleared up and we got a large amount of training done.”

Thanks to the generosity of the First Baptist Church of Custer, CAP members were able to use Camp Volunteer next to the airport over the weekend. The camp was also used as a staging area for the ground teams during the exercise. SDWG also thanks Custer County Search and Rescue for their participation in this SAREX.
**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE:** Wing Vice Commander Lt. Col. Rick Larson attended the 4th Annual Sanford Health Emergency Management Conference held in Sioux Falls May. The conference focused on trends in preparedness and response. Some of the topics covered were communications failures, rural disasters, and tornado events. A round table discussion on planning and response was held on the 29th.

**LOW-LEVEL ROUTE SURVEYS:** Each year the South Dakota Air National Guard requests SDWG carry out low-level route surveys (LLRS) of selected military air training routes and aerial Military Operations Areas (MOA). These military air training routes cover southeastern South Dakota, northwestern Iowa and northeastern Nebraska leading to and from the O’Neill MOA in northeastern Nebraska. The purpose of the sorties is to look for uncharted antenna towers, changes to charted towers, and noise sensitive areas such as stock pens/feedlots; areas to be avoided by the SDANG pilots. The LLRS Mission for 2015 has been approved and the planning is well advanced. This year Sioux Falls Composite Squadron’s Capt. Matt Meert is SDWG’s planning officer and Lt. Jerry Hayden is the Operations Section Chief. The first LLRS sorties will be flown in June.

**WEST POINT HONORS PIONEERING BLACK AIRMAN:** The U.S. Army Military Academy will name its newest cadet barracks at West Point in honor of the late Gen. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., a leader of the World War II Tuskegee Airmen, who graduated from the academy in 1936. The barracks are expected to house cadets beginning in January 2017. Davis, whose father was the Army's first black general, was the academy's only black cadet in 1932 and spent his time ostracized from his fellow white cadets. His ambition was to enter into aviation but due to segregation, he would have to wait until 1941 to be accepted as one of the first Tuskegee Airmen, earning his aviation wings a year later. In 1942, he commanded the 99th Pursuit Squadron and, later, the all-black 332nd Fighter Group known as the legendary “Red Tails”. He transferred from the Army to the U.S. Air Force in 1947 when the new service was established. There he led the development of ethnic integration and spent the next two decades focused on equal treatment and opportunities for all. He held various command and staff positions before culminating his service as a lieutenant general. Davis’ final promotion to general (four stars), U.S. Air Force, occurred on December 9, 1998. Davis passed in 2002 at the age of 89.

The Civil Air Patrol honored General Davis by creating the Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. Award. It is presented to CAP members who complete Level II of the Senior Member Professional Development Program. It recognizes those who have dedicated themselves to leadership and personal development in the CAP.

STAFF NOTES

WING COMMANDER
Col. John Seten, CAP

Please join me in congratulating our FY15 Cadet Flight Scholarship recipients:

$1000  C/CMSgt Jaden Roblewsky    Sioux Falls Composite Squadron
$1000  C/2nd Lt Nicholas Nash      Sioux Falls Composite Squadron
$700   C/MSgt Hannah Becker        Pierre Composite Squadron

WING DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
Maj. Nicholas Gengler, CAP

The 2015 Joint Dakota Encampment at Camp Rapid in Rapid City is coming sooner than you think! Cadet Staff selection is complete and now everyone can sign up to come! On the website (http://sdcap.us/encampment/) there is also a list of forms that the cadets will need to bring with them to Encampment. The only thing I need beforehand is their CAPF-31 (Parental permission). You can email them to me or mail them to our Wing HQ (address on the website). For those that wish to pay by check you can also send that to our Wing HQ. Cadet Packing list coming soon! Check us out on Facebook as well. We’ll be updating our Facebook page for parents and public during encampment to keep everyone informed of daily activities. See you there!

WING DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
Capt. Jerry Gabert, CAP

SDWG participated in CAP’s National Communications Exercise (COMEX) “Constant Watch 15” on 15 and 16 May. The exercise tests CAP’s ability to pass messages throughout the nation on high frequency (HF) radio. New this year was the relay of messages from HF stations to other units over very high frequency (VHF) radios. SDWG’s portion of the exercise was directed by Capt. Jerry Gabert, Wing Director of Communications.

The exercise began the afternoon of 15 May. Capt. Jerry Gabert and Lt. Rob Hinkhouse checked in on an HF radio in Sioux Falls. Lt. Todd Dravland checked in on his HF radio in Pierre. SM Jeff Shawd operated his HF radio in Valley Springs. He received several Whiskey Tango (numerically encoded) messages and entered them into the CAP computer system. Lt. Col. Dave Jefferies was on the HF radio in his vehicle and took Whiskey Tango messages while supporting Red Cross disaster relief efforts after the tornado in Delmont.

Capt. Gabert and Lt. Hinkhouse were also busy on Friday night planning messages to send on Saturday. They made up a practice coder/decoder and then formulated several coded messages.
Saturday morning the exercise expanded to include an airborne radio signal repeater. The airborne repeater was in a Sioux Falls Composite Squadron Cessna-182 piloted by Capt. Neil Schmid. Maj. Elliott Filler was Mission Observer. The purpose was three-fold: first, to test the range of the VHF airborne repeater. The aircraft made contact with participating squadrons along the flight route; second, to test inter-squadron VHF radio links; and, third, to send encoded Whisky Tango messages by VHF for relay by the long range HF stations. Through the repeater communications were established from Sioux Falls to Brookings, Brookings to Valley Springs, Valley Springs to Sioux Falls, and from Pierre to Delmont. Practice Whiskey Tango messages were sent between Sioux Falls, Brookings and Valley Springs. The messages were then deciphered by the receiving station and verified by the sending station.


Overall this was a very successful COMEX. Although thunderstorms hampered communications somewhat SDWG successfully checked in on the national HF net and passed traffic to or monitored traffic from all eight CAP USA regions, mostly from Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Idaho, Michigan and Washington Wings.

Thanks to all who participated. We hope to expand participation in Exercise Constant Watch exercise next year.

LEFT: MAJ. FILLER AND CAPT. SCHMID PREPARE TO FLY THE AIRBORNE REPEATER MISSION
CENTER: (L-R) LT. HINKHOUSE, CADETS HOLMBERG AND ORTEGA, LT. COL. HUNTINGTON AND CAPT. GABERT
RIGHT: SM SHAWD IN HIS VERY WELL EQUIPPED “RADIO SHACK”
PHOTOS BY CAPT. GABERT/CAPT. FOY

WING DIRECTOR OF AEROSPACE EDUCATION
Maj. Rodney “Buck” DeWeese, CAP

There is support for another trip to the Oshkosh Airshow. The EAA is sponsoring a bus and they still have room for about 20 more folks. Each person is responsible for making their own reservation with EAA. However, CAP/AE will give $100.00 scholarships to help offset cadet expenses after they return from Oshkosh. Seniors and parents fund their own trip. If cadets want to go without parents, we’ll consider helping sponsor up to two Seniors. If you cancel for any reason, the $100.00 scholarship is forfeited along with your deposit to EAA. If you have any questions contact me at deweese@rushmore.com or 605-641-2362.

Attached as the last page is the current Oshkosh Airshow flyer.
CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068, CUSTER)
(Items by Lt. K. Bierwirth)

- **INTEGRATING CADET INSTRUCTORS**: The squadron has been working on improving our programs and giving the cadets more responsibility. One example of such was C/SMSgt Thomas Dillon led a Character Development class.

- **DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION**: We are moving forward with the DDR portion of CAP. Our first class was “React with a kiss” where the cadets learned how being impaired can even affect opening a candy kiss.

- **EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING**: C/Lt Jason Parry taught an ES class on running a ground search. Some of the topics addressed included organization and operation of a telephone alert system, conducting a line search, marking a search route, and post mission individual refit. Not only did the cadets learn a great deal, they got to practice their newly learned skills between the rain drops.

- **CAMP VOLUNTEER CLEANUP**: Crazy Horse and Rushmore squadrons combined efforts to clean up Camp Volunteer in preparation for the May SAREX. The facilities of the church-affiliated camp, about 3 miles south of Custer and across from the airport, will be used for billeting. We learned the value of team work to get things done working together. Members of both units shared a great meal and enjoyed each other’s company.

PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-038, PIERRE)
(Item and photo by Lt. Col. Gatje)

**MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY**: Pierre Squadron members Lt. Col. Lois Schmidt, Lt. Col. Tam Gatje, Lt. Jon Becker and C/MSgt Hannah Becker participated in the Pierre citywide Memorial Day event. It was held at the Riggs Theater on Monday, May 25. Veterans of all branches of the United States Armed Forces were in attendance. A wreath was placed for each of the veteran’s organizations in attendance, including Civil Air Patrol. Father Michael Griffin was this year’s guest speaker. He was a Chaplain in the National Guard. Pierre’s Capital City Band provided the musical program that enhanced the ceremony. Lt. Becker performed Taps, ending the program. In the photo Chaplain Griffin addresses the audience.

RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-031, RAPID CITY)
(Item submitted by Maj. Kipp with input from Lt. Col. (Ret) Marc Miller, Douglas HS AFJROTC)

- **AFJROTC FLIGHT ORIENTATION PROGRAM**: On 2 May, Col. Mike Beason flew the second of three planned Flight Orientation Program (FOP) flights for Air Force Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps cadets. Three cadets, C/MSgt Levi Beckwith, C/A1C Michael Hendricks and C/A1C Michael Swan from Douglas High School’s AFJROTC program in Box Elder went aloft. On 26 May, Lt. Col. Chuck Trumble flew the third of the three FOP flights. Three more cadets from Douglas High School’s Air Force JROTC program, C/SrA Tristan Fletcher, C/SrA Bryce Lambert and C/SrA Riley McMeekin went aloft. The first FOP flight was flown on 28
April by Maj. Goodrich with AFJROTC C/SSgt Nick Kochutin and C/SrA Kevin Armstrong on board. In the photo (L-R) are AFJROTC C/A1C Hendricks, C/A1C Swan and C/MSgt Beckwith. SDWG looks forward to doing more of these flights in the future.

**SIoux Falls Composite Squadron (SD-050, SiouxFalls)**
(Item by Capt. Schmid)

- **Cadet O-Ride:** On 9 May, Capt. Neil Schmid took C/Amn Oscar Holmberg and C/A1C Chris Schuppan aloft on an orientation flight to the Mitchell Municipal Airport, about 75 miles west of Sioux Falls.

Oscar was at the controls for the sortie to Mitchell. Then they landed so Chris could move to the co-pilot’s seat. Chris was at the controls for the sortie back to Sioux Falls.

It is believed that this was a milestone for Capt. Schmid - his 50th Cadet Orientation flight!

★★ PROMOTIONS ★★

**Senior Member Promotions**

Congratulations to Morgan “Dani” Black of Rushmore Composite Squadron on her promotion to the rank of Captain!

Congratulations to Peter Bierwirth of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Second Lieutenant!
**Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions**

Congratulations to Thomas Dillon of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Master Sergeant and receipt of the General Jimmy Doolittle Award!

Congratulations to Graham Dinnel of Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings and to Kyle Kreger of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Master Sergeant and receipt of the Charles Lindbergh Award!

**Cadet Airman Promotions**

Congratulations to Anthony Dillon of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron on promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Airman and receipt of the Mary Feik Award!

Congratulations to Shauna Fogarty of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on her promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman and receipt of the General J.F. Curry Award!

★★ KUDOS ★★

- **CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT INSTRUCTOR:** In May, Wing Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gary Rae presented Lt. Thomas Delaney of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings with the certificate appointing him as a CAP Character Development Instructor (CDI). CAP CDIs are part of the CAP Chaplain Corps and are appointed to provide character development instruction as part of the cadet program under the guidance of the Wing Chaplain. The CDI works directly for the squadron commander while maintaining liaison with the Wing Chaplain. Senior Members selected for appointment as a CDI are required to undergo a stringent vetting process by NHQ before appointment by National Chaplain, Col. James Hughes. Lt. Daleny is one of the first to be appointed under the revised CAPR-265-1 and the first CDI to be appointed to the squadron. Following appointment, and upon completion of training, CDIs may wear the specialty track badge.

TECHNICIAN LEVEL BADGE FOR A CDI.
IN THE PHOTO CHAPLAIN RAE PRESENTS THE CDI CERTIFICATE TO LT. DELANEY

Congratulations Capt. James Dillon of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron who received a Certification of Appreciation and a challenge coin for all of his the hard work and challenges he has overcome to get to where he is today.
Congratulations to C/SMSgt Thomas Dillon of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron who received a Certification of Appreciation for his excellent leadership skills and for using those skills to further the squadron’s cadet program. Thomas really enjoys teaching and sharing his knowledge with others.

Congratulations to Maj. Bruce Kipp of the Wing Staff on earning “Senior” level in specialty track – Historian in the Senior Member Professional Development Program!

Congratulations to Maj. David G. Small Jr., SDWG Chief of Staff, who attended the week-long National Staff College at CAP NHQ at Maxwell AFB, Alabama. CAP’s capstone professional development course enhances executive management and leadership skills. The National Staff College is a requirement for CAP’s highest professional development achievement, the Gill Robb Wilson Award.

Congratulations to the following individuals who updated and/or completed various Emergency Services qualifications at the Custer SAREX:
Maj Craig Goodrich – Updated IC3 and PSC
Lt. Andy Weathers – Completed Mission Observer
Capt. Doug Robbins – Completed Mission Scanner
Lt. Col. Gary Hewett – Updated Mission Pilot/Mission Check Pilot
Capt. Lisa Swanson – Completed Mission Observer

Congratulations to Capt. Patrick and Lt. Jamie Nowlin of Rushmore Composite Squadron welcomed their son Josiah Patrick Nowlin on 20 May 2015 at 9:40pm. The future cadet weighed in at 6lbs, 15oz, and was 20 inches long.

★ ★ ★ SOLAR IMPULSE-2 ★ ★ ★

5 Days, 5,000 Miles, Fueled Only by the Sun: Solar Impulse-2’s Pacific Crossing

By Emily Rouhala for Time Magazine [Edited]: On 26 May, a Swiss man named André Borschberg will take off from an airport in Nanjing, China, and fly for roughly 120 hours straight. He will travel east and south across the vast Pacific, spending days and nights over deep, dark sea as he hurtles toward Hawaii in an airplane powered by the sun.

Borschberg and fellow pilot Bertrand Piccard have spent more than a decade preparing to fly their solar powered aircraft, Solar Impulse-2, around the globe. There will be 12 flights total, with the pilots taking turns at the helm of the single-seat aircraft. The around the world trip began 9 March in the United Arab Emirates.

“Adventure is where when you learn to be more open to the unknown,” says Piccard.

Once Solar Impulse-2 leaves Nanjing, there will be few certainties. A flight like this has never been done. The 5,000-mile leg will be a technical and physical test. Priority No. 1 is marshaling the sun, Borschberg says.
During the day, **Solar Impulse-2** will fly high while capturing energy. When darkness falls, the engines will be cut and the plane will soar for several hours, losing altitude. At some point, the engine will start drawing on battery power. Then, at daybreak, the cycle begins again.

The flight will not be easy on the pilot. Seated in tiny cockpit, the 62-year-old will be awake for most of the flight, resting only for 20 minutes at a time. The conditions in the plane will be far from first-class comfort: the space is small, and the temperature and air pressure will vary dramatically through the trip. At some points, he will be able to communicate with mission control in Monaco. If things go wrong, he could be on his own. Flying a plane like **Solar Impulse-2**, which is incredibly light, means working with the elements, not racing through them. “The more extreme the airplane, the more you have to have nature on your side and not the other way around,” Borschberg says.

**UPDATE:** The **Solar Impulse-2**, which took off from Nanjing, China on 31 May bound for Hawaii, was forced to land at Nagoya, Japan because of bad weather. The around-the-world journey started in March in Abu Dhabi, and the plane has stopped in Oman, India, Myanmar and China. The 8,175-kilometer (5,079-mile) flight from Nanjing to Hawaii was the seventh of 12 flights and the longest and most dangerous.

Source: [http://time.chtah.net/a/tBVVyGKBASRfIB84oq1BRdMCx7f/time14](http://time.chtah.net/a/tBVVyGKBASRfIB84oq1BRdMCx7f/time14)

Photos are screen captures from the article

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**SDWG has begun to increase the use of social media to get the word out to the public as to who we are and what we do, AND to keep our members informed of the latest wing news and information.**

“**Follow**” us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/SDWingCAP](http://www.facebook.com/SDWingCAP) and

“**Like**” us on Twitter at [@SDWingCAP](https://twitter.com/SDWingCAP)
Registration info:

Names: ________________________________
EAA # ________________________________
Address ________________________________
City __________________ State____ zip________
Cell phone number ________________________
Home number ________________________________
Email address ________________________________
Shirt size/s __________________

Choose:

____ Double Occupancy  Non- A/C $370/person
____ Double Occupancy with A/C $450/person
____ Single Occupancy  Non- A/C $470/person
____ Single Occupancy with A/C $625/person
____ Quad Occupancy $475/person-

List group here:
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______________________________________
______________________________________

For further information:

Craig Hagen  605-310-4227
chagen@naisiouxfalls.com

Gary Pelach  605-310-9984
captgar1@gmail.com

July 23-26, 2015
July 23-26, 2015

* **Double occupancy:**
  
  Non- A/C room- $370/person  
  A/C room- $450/person
  
  Or

* **Single occupancy:**
  
  Non- A/C room- $470/person  
  A/C room- $625/person
  
  Or

* **QUAD Accommodations- $475/person**

A quad requires 4 occupants. They are 4 single bedrooms with two bathrooms, a shower, lounge and kitchen.

* **Price includes:**
  
  - Charter bus service from Sioux Falls to Oshkosh
  
  - Experienced tour hostess
  
  - Dorm room accommodations at the University of Oshkosh
  
  - Flight line passes for 3 days of AirVenture
  
  - Admission to the world-class EAA AirVenture Museum and Pioneer Airport is included with daily admission.

* EAA Chapter 289 members will have the first chances to reserve their seats until January 1, 2015.

A deposit of $100 is required per person to hold your seat. The balance will be due in full by June 1, 2015.

Any cancellations after July 1st will forfeit $100 deposit. No refunds for cancellations after July 15, 2015.

* Married couples only need one membership.

Send registration info and $100 per person deposit to:  
EAA 289 OSH Bus Tour 2015  
C/O HCRE  
PO Box 1363  
Sioux Falls, SD 57101-1363

* Adults must be an EAA member: $40 per year national dues and $25 per year local dues. Married couples only need one membership.
CGM PRESENTATION CEREMONY: On 29 June, South Dakota U.S. Senator Mike Rounds presented a CAP Congressional Gold Medal to the family of the late Vernon Jeffries of Rapid City who was a pilot for the Civil Air Patrol during WWII. After the presentation Dave Jeffries, Vernon’s son, commented, "For many years, the CAP pilots of WWII, the whole air crew, the whole operation of WWII, was kind of buried in history. When it was happening, many people knew about it. After the war, many people forgot." Vernon Jeffries flew small single-engine, fabric covered aircraft off the coast of New Jersey during the war, trying to spot German U-Boats. They were civilian volunteers flying dangerous missions with the CAP. Also in attendance were the South Dakota Wing Commander Colonel John Seten and Vice Commander Lt. Col. Richard Larson as well as many other SD Wing members.
• **LOW-LEVEL ROUTE SURVEYS**: Each year the South Dakota Air National Guard requests SDWG carry out low-level route surveys (LLRS) of selected military aerial training routes and of aerial Military Operations Areas (MOA). These military air training routes cover southeastern South Dakota, northwestern Iowa and northeastern Nebraska leading to and from the O’Neill and Lake Andes MOAs. The purpose of these sorties is to search for uncharted hazards such as antenna towers, changes to charted towers, and noise sensitive areas - stock pens/feedlots; areas to be avoided by low-flying military pilots. There are a vast number of them between Sioux City and Omaha.

Over the course of three days in June, SDWG flew six sorties for a total of 19 flight hours. A marathon LLRS was flown covering the Lake Andes MOA. The mission lasted eight hours and two new targets were observed. The aircrew consisted of Col. Greg Lair (Mission Pilot), C/Maj Brandon West (Mission Observer), and Capt. Karla West (Mission Scanner/Photographer). Wing Commander Col. John Seten (Mission Pilot), Vice Commander Lt. Col. Rick Larson (Mission Observer) and SM Kevin Kayser (Mission Scanner photographer) also flew a route that went from Iowa into Nebraska. When landing for fuel the aircrew was able to visit the powered flight academy that was taking place in Freemont, Ne.

When SDWG flies a LLRS, a command post is set up for C³ support for the aircraft. SDWG Capt. Neil Schmid serves as Incident Commander. Sioux Falls Composite Squadron’s Lt. Jerry Hayden is this year’s Operations Section Chief and Capt. Matt Meert is the Planning Coordinator.

![PILOT CAPT. NEIL SCHMID (RIGHT), OBSERVER MAJ. E.W. FILLER (LEFT), AND SCANNER TRAINEE LT. MANY STEELE (CENTER) ON A LLRS MISSION ON A FLIGHT ROUTE IN NORTHEASTERN NEBRASKA DISCOVERED A MESSAGE, POSSIBLY FOR UFOS.](image)

• **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS**: SDWG flew nine aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over seven days in June in support of the state Department of Game, Fish & Parks and South Dakota State University. GF&P surveys deer, goats, mountain lions, and elk while SDSU surveys elk, bobcats and big horn sheep. The result was 28.4 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. Two of the sorties were flown by Col. Mike Beason, three by Capt. Albert Trumble and four by Maj. Craig Goodrich. Depending on whom the sortie supported he was accompanied by one or more representatives from SDSU or from Game, Fish & Parks.

• **AFA CHAPTER MEETING**: On 25 June, Maj. Todd Epp attended the meeting of the Sioux Falls Chapter of the Air Force Association held at the Air National Guard base at Joe Foss Field. Keynote speaker was Brig. Gen. Matthew Jamison, South Dakota Assistant Adjutant General for Air. He spoke about upgrades to the F-16 aircraft currently flown by the SDANG and about the possible posting of the new F-35 aircraft in Sioux Falls. The Sioux Falls AFA Chapter is looking to become more active. They are assisting with the 2016 Sioux Falls Air Show. Brig. Gen. Ron Mielke, one of the leaders of the AFA in Sioux Falls, has been a great friend to the
Sioux Falls Composite Squadron and to SDWG. The meeting was attended by staff from all three congresspeople, representatives of the air show, and a number of officers and enlisted members of the SDANG. Maj. Epp will try to get out a notice for the AFA Chapter’s next meeting.

- **AOPA FLIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS:** The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) Foundation would like to inform you of two flight training scholarship opportunities:

1. **Flight Training Scholarships:** In an effort to support outstanding student pilots, the AOPA Foundation will award 25 scholarships, ranging from $2,500 to $12,000, in 2015. These scholarships are meant for student pilots that have not yet completed their FAA checkride and do not hold a pilot certificate of any type. Scholarships are available for student pilots at least 16 years old. Applications are due 9 August and winners will be announced on 2 October. Scholarship details/online application - [http://flighttraining.aopa.org/ftscholarship.html](http://flighttraining.aopa.org/ftscholarship.html). A printable flyer to post or hand out - [http://download.aopa.org/images/benefits/2015_FT_scholarship_flyer.pdf](http://download.aopa.org/images/benefits/2015_FT_scholarship_flyer.pdf).

2. **Grants to nonprofits that fund flight training scholarships:** Nonprofit organizations seeking to offer flight training scholarships to aspiring aviators can receive funding for the scholarships through AOPA Foundation's new grant program. The deadline to apply for one of two $5,000 grants is 24 July. Eligibility requirements and instructions for applying can be found online at [http://flighttraining.aopa.org/ftscholarship.html](http://flighttraining.aopa.org/ftscholarship.html).

If you have any questions about the flight training scholarships or the grants for nonprofits please email FTscholarship@aopa.org or call Kristi Stilen-Lare at 301.695.2037.

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### STAFF NOTES

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#### WING COMMANDER
Col. John Seten, CAP

Please join me in congratulating Lt. Col. Linda Buechler, SDWG’s Director of Cadet Programs, Drug Demand Reduction Administrator, and Health Programs Officer, who has been selected as the 2015 Civil Air Patrol Drug Demand Reduction Member of the Year!

In his congratulatory letter to her National Commander Maj. Gen. Joseph Vazquez wrote: Congratulations! I am happy to inform you of your selection as 2015 Civil Air Patrol Drug Demand Reduction Member of the Year. As the Drug Demand Reduction Member of the Year you will be honored by CAP at the upcoming National Conference in Orlando, Florida, August 27-29, 2015. I am confident you will continue to provide outstanding service to Civil Air Patrol and to the United States of America.

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#### WING SAFETY OFFICER
Lt. Col. Mark Huntington, CAP

Some significant changes are being made to CAP’s safety policy. In a nutshell: **monthly safety education is still mandatory for all members of the Civil Air Patrol.** However, effective 26 June all references to safety
“currency” were removed from CAPR 62-1, *CAP Safety Responsibilities and Procedures*. "Currency" will no longer be checked and will not prevent participation in missions. Several changes will also go into effect in eServices, primarily removing the checks for safety “currency” and the barriers to mission participation for those previously considered “noncurrent.”

**WING DIRECTOR OF CADET PROGRAMS**

Lt. Col. Linda Buechler, CAP

- **NATIONAL CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT WEEKEND**: National Character Development Weekend is September, 2015. Commanders please check with your cadets and seniors - possible dates would be September 11-13 or September 25-27. One possible location is Pierre at the Community Bible Church but I’m open to other suggestions. I will need to procure the location so the sooner the better in knowing date and location.

- **RED RIBBON WEEK**: Don't forget Red Ribbon week in October. Squadrons, this is a great time to hold an open house as some churches and organizations are doing "Trick or Treat". If you need any materials or help, please do not hesitate to let me know.

**WING CHIEF OF STAFF**

Maj. David Small, Jr., CAP

The 2015 Wing Cadet Advisory Council is reaching the end of its term and the new 2016 CAC is being formed. The current term ends at the end of July and the new CAC is effective on 1 August.

First off I’d like to thank the outgoing CAC for its participation during the past year. The CAC planned and executed a Cadet Leadership School in Pierre in February and a color guard training activity in Sioux Falls in June. The CAC met regularly and discussed many cadet-related topics.

The 2015 CAC was chaired by C/Capt Nicole Schneider. Other primary members were Cadets Jaden Petersen, Jason Parry, Hannah Becker, Errol Kelly, Nicholas Nash and Jared Doyle. Assistants were Cadets Chris Dinnel, Thomas Dillon, Silas Busch, Steven Diaconu and Justin Harris. The South Dakota Wing was represented at the North Central Region by Cadet Joshua Klosterman, assisted by Cadet Silas Busch.

The incoming, 2016 CAC is chaired by C/Lt Col Joshua Klosterman. The vice chair is C/CMSgt Blake Hayden. Representing Brookings is C/CMSgt Matias Kowang assisted by C/CMSgt Jaden Petersen. Custer is represented by C/SMSgt Thomas Dillon assisted by C/Lt Jason Parry. From Pierre is C/MSgt Hannah Becker. Rushmore nominated C/SrA Nicholas Kochutin and C/A1C Tyler Eberle. Sioux Falls is represented by C/Lt Nicholas Nash and C/CMSgt Steven Diaconu. Spearfish is represented by C/TSgt Peter Iverson and C/MSgt Austin Rauscher.

C/Lt Col Joshua Klosterman, assisted by C/CMSgt Blake Hayden, will represent the South Dakota Wing on the NCR CAC. Klosterman has also been named as assistant NCR representative to the National CAC.

The South Dakota Wing can expect great input from this group of very talented and energetic cadets.
BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-58, BROOKINGS)
(Item and photos submitted by Maj. Filler)

- **ELKTON HARVEST FESTIVAL:** On 16 June, the squadron’s Color Guard marched in the Elkton Harvest Festival. The event consisted of a parade, a carnival and the Miss Elkton pageant. The cadets looked sharp and performed flawlessly. Many favorable comments were overheard about our presence at the event.

CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068, CUSTER)
(Items by Lt. K. Bierwirth, photos by Kathy Dill)

- **ANNIVERSARY:** As of June 2015, Crazy Horse Composite Squadron has been serving the southern Black Hills area for 20 years. Squadron members paused to pose for a photo of this historic occasion. The squadron received its charter on 6 June 1995.

- **FLAG FOLDING CEREMONY:** Our squadron assisted the Custer VFW with a flag folding ceremony on Custer’s main street. The flag was taken down as the flag pole is being moved from the middle of the street to a new Veteran’s Memorial currently under construction.
LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-063, SPEARFISH)
(Items and photos submitted by Lt. Col. Hopewell and Capt. Collister)

• **MICKELSON TRAIL MARATHON**: The annual Black Hills marathon, run along the Mickelson Trail, was held on 7 June. Once again cadets and seniors from the squadron attended to the runners by distributing water, sports drinks and fruit and, to some, Vaseline to treat underarm chafing. Four runners were transported with minor maladies back to the race finish line. Mother Nature provided beautiful weather for the marathon. At mile marker 20 (of the 26.2 mile marathon) the members of LMCS earned the appreciation of the over 3,000 participants and thanks from the sponsors of the race. Cadets having a hand in the community service enterprise were C/Lt Jared Doyle, C/CMSgt Connor Caneva, C/MSgt Keyvin Rauscher, C/SSgt Peter Iverson, CB Jerry Fahrenbruck and CB George Fahrenbruck. Seniors participating were Capt. Bill Collister, Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese and Capt. Brandon Caneva.

PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-038, PIERRE)
(Item and photos submitted by Lt. Col. Gatje)

• **ST. JOSEPH INDIAN SCHOOL VISIT**: Squadron members Lt. Col. Myra Christensen and Capt. Richard Helton met with students at the St. Joseph Indian School (SJIS) in Chamberlain in June. SJIS occasionally holds a Field Day, this time it was at the Chamberlain airport. Students visited the mechanics’ shop with some aircraft being serviced. Then they visited hangers with larger aircraft so they could get a wider perspective. A CAP Cessna-172 was flown to Chamberlain and displayed on the tarmac. Students tried on the headset, asked about portions of the instrument panel, about antennas on the outside of the aircraft, and other items of interest to them. Eleven students attended the presentation along with three adult helpers. Materials were provided for each of them to make a pencil rocket to demonstrate aerodynamic principles explained by Lt. Col. Christensen and Capt. Helton. This was an excellent meet and greet with the students and staff of SJIS. CAP was promoted to the students, staff and some area residents. The students reported having a great time looking at the airplanes and learning a bit about them.
RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-031, RAPID CITY)
(Items by Maj. Goodrich and Lt. Kuecker, photos by Lt. Kuecker)

- **NEW MEETING NIGHT**: Effective 2 July, the new squadron weekly meeting night is on Thursdays. We invite everyone who would like to visit us to come by on our new meeting night.

- **G1000 TRAINING**: Maj. Craig Goodrich provided two days of G1000 training at the Wing HQ building on the 18th and 19th of July. Five pilots attended.

- **FAMILY FUN NIGHT**: Our family fun night was on 29 June at Sheridan Lake. We were pleased to have had special guests attend – Col. Seten, Lt. Col. Larson, Maj. David Small, Capt. Sylvia Small, and Lt. Manny Steele. The cadets were brave enough to jump into the cold water from SM Doug Robbins’ boat, while the wimpy parents watched. We got to practice waterborne rescue skills as Maj. Goodrich had a boat full of cadets on the lake when his motor went out. The cadets were making progress with paddles, but then Lt. Kuecker and her husband cruised by on their jetski. Rapidly assessing the situation (with ORM of course!) they decided to be nice and towed the boat to shore. Rescue done! It was a great evening out with food, fun and sun.

- **OPEN HOUSE AT KRAP**: On, June 20, Rapid City Regional Airport had an Open House. The squadron worked hard along with other members from Custer and Spearfish to provide crowd control and parking detail for the day. We also helped set up/take down the event barricades. Although busy, we still managed to recruit two new members and share CAP with many others. Lt. Jack Jensen and SM Jordan Tremblay had our aircraft on static display. Our squadron provided nine members participating, Crazy Horse had five, and Lookout Mountain had two. It was a great team effort.

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**PROMOTIONS**

Senior Member Promotion

Congratulations to Jeffrey Dill of Rushmore Composite Squadron on his permanent appointment as a CAP Lieutenant Colonel! His retired USAF rank has been accepted by the North Central Region.

Cadet Officer Promotions

Congratulations to Tyler Gross of Big Sioux Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Major! In addition, C/Maj Gross has been appointed to his squadron’s cadet staff as Operations Officer.
Congratulations to Nicholas Nash of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet First Lieutenant! In addition, C/Lt Nash has been appointed to his squadron’s cadet staff as Administrative Officer.

Congratulations to Levi Woodard of Rushmore Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Second Lieutenant and receipt of the milestone Billy Mitchell Award!

Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions

Congratulations to Steven Diaconu of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Chief Master Sergeant and receipt of the Dr. Robert H Goddard Award!

Congratulations to Nathaniel Fleet of Big Sioux Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Master Sergeant and receipt of the Jimmy Doolittle Award!

Congratulations to Julia Lair of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on her promotion to the rank of Cadet Master Sergeant and receipt of the Charles Lindbergh Award!

Congratulations to Kyle Clement of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, to Andrew Toft of Big Sioux Composite Squadron, and to Peter Iverson of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron on promotion to the rank of Cadet Technical Sergeant and receipt of the Captain Eddie Rickenbacker Award!

Congratulations to Robert Boecker of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Staff Sergeant and receipt of the Wright Brothers Award!

Cadet Airman Promotions

Congratulations to Christopher Schuppan and Taylor Umland-Moyer, both of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Airman and receipt of the Mary Feik Award!

Congratulations to Darin Burke of Big Sioux Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the General Hap Arnold Award!

Congratulations to Mark Sweebe of Big Sioux Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman and receipt of the General J.F. Curry Award!
Congratulations to Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese of the Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron who has completed Level V of the Senior Member Professional Development Program!

Congratulations to C/Maj Brandon West of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, the Wing’s newest Transport Mission Pilot (TMP)!

To become a TMP, Cadet West had to accrue 100 hours as Pilot-in-Command and 50 cross country flight hours. As a TMP, he will be able to transport senior members to conferences, meetings, and SAREX’s and be able to fly the airborne repeater missions.

Congratulations to SM Carl Lustywallis of Rushmore Composite Squadron on completion of Level I of the Senior Member Professional Development Program! In addition, he has been appointed the squadron’s Assistant Aerospace Education Officer.

Congratulations to Capt. Jordan Tremblay of Rushmore Composite Squadron who has been appointed as the squadron’s Vehicle Officer.

The cadets of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron derive pleasure and pride in their interactions with various community activities. Less often, but significantly, they have been called upon to participate in more solemn roles. Such was the case with the internment of CAP Lt. Col. Keith Collins at the Black Hills National Cemetery.

Lt. Col. Keith Collins was one of the key figures in the founding of the Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron in the West River area in 1987. He served the squadron for many years and, while not the very first, was one of the early squadron commanders there. Civil Air Patrol and LMCS was a very important part of his life.

After Keith passed away several months ago his wife, Lorraine, in planning the memorial service for internment of his ashes, specifically requested LMCS cadets present a flag line in his honor at the ceremony. As Keith was a veteran, military honors would have been accorded him at the Black Hills Cemetery. However, as CAP was such a large part of his life Lorraine asked that only a CAP Honor Guard be posted at the internment service.

The cadets were honored to fulfill her request on Monday, 8 June. Two impressive flag lines of four cadets each greeted the guests at the entrance to the chapel at the Black Hills National Cemetery. After all were gathered, they marched inside to flank the assembly during the service. They preceded the guests out and flanked them as they exited the chapel.

The cadets comprising the CAP entourage were Cadet Commander C/Lt Bradley Blansett, C/Lt Jared Doyle, C/CMSgt Justin Harris, C/CMSgt Connor Caneva, C/SMSgt Ryan Harris, C/MSgt Austin Raucher, C/MSgt Keyvin Raucher, and C/SSgt Peter Iverson. Anchoring each of the flag lines were Capt. Bill Collister, and Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese.
CAP CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL CEREMONIES:
Governor Dennis Daugaard will present World War II era CAP members Pauline Brehe and Lois Schmidt their Congressional Gold Medals at 1330 on Monday, 24 August, at the governor's office at the Capitol in Pierre. Lois and Pauline were founding members of the Pierre Composite Squadron and among the first women in not just South Dakota but the United States to become CAP members. If you would like to attend please RSVP to Maj. Todd Epp (todd.epp@sdcap.us) by 1700 CT, 20 August. Maj. Epp needs to let the Governor's staff know how many will be in attendance. There will be a news crew from Pierre station KGFX covering the event.

The 2015 Joint Dakota Encampment was held from 10-19 July at Camp Rapid, SD. This year’s encampment logo bears the motto “Omnia Vincit Animus” (Courage Conquers All). The theme for the encampment was “Cadet Leadership”. Under the supervision of Encampment Commander Maj. Nick Gengler and his staff of senior members, the cadet staff, from Cadet Commander down to the Flight Sergeants and supernumeraries, planned and conducted the encampment. Cadets leading and teaching cadets. Military customs and courtesies, drill and ceremonies, physical fitness, small arms marksmanship, night field training maneuvers, obstacle course and leadership confidence course, and training on the skills and techniques of leadership were just some of the activities at the encampment. Attendance at an encampment qualifies cadets to participate in more advanced summer opportunities such as flight academies. Of
course, this year’s general encampment attendees will have the opportunity to return next year, this time as cadet staff/instructors.

Maj. Gengler reports 81 members attended the encampment: 22 Senior Members (3 NDWG and 19 SDWG), and 59 cadets (16 NDWG, 1 each from MOWG, IDWG, MNWG, and 40 SDWG). Two of the highlights of the encampment was the tour of the SDANG Helicopters at the Army Aviation Support Facility at the Rapid City Regional Airport and the Air and Space Museum outside Ellsworth AFB. The cadets did some great team building exercises at the Leadership Reaction Courses at Camp Rapid West. We also got to see live training of the Officer Basic Course going on at Camp Rapid West for NCOs that the Army National Guard selected to train as Officers. To wrap it all up we had a big banquet at the end at Ellsworth AFB. We had 20 guests show up to view the graduation of cadets. Overall it was a successful Encampment and everyone had a great time.

Wing Commander Col. John Seten and Wing Vice Commander Lt. Col. Richard Larson travelled to Camp Rapid for a briefing on Encampment operations and to meet and speak with the staff and participants.

- **LOW-LEVEL ROUTE SURVEYS:** Each year the South Dakota Air National Guard requests SDWG carry out low-level route surveys (LLRS) of selected military aerial training routes and of aerial Military Operations Areas (MOA). These military air training routes cover southeastern South Dakota, northwestern Iowa and northeastern Nebraska leading to and from the O’Neill MOA. The task is to search for uncharted hazards to low-flying military pilots such as antenna towers, changes to charted towers, and to locate noise sensitive areas - stock pens/feedlots of which there are a vast number between Sioux City and Omaha.

  Over six days in July, SDWG aircrews flew fourteen sorties for a total of 41.4 flight hours.

  On 29 July, a crew of Capt. Neil Schmid (Mission Pilot), SM Kevin Kayser (Mission Scanner), and Capt. Jerry Zurovski (Mission Observer) flew the final two LLRS sorties for this year. The initial 3.5 hour sortie was flying over the south half of the O’Neill MOA. The crew landed for fuel and a much needed rest stop at the airport in Norfolk, Nebraska.
Pictured here, the three aircrew members stand next to the airport’s courtesy car for use by visitors. Fortunately for us, in the building is an excellent restaurant with an unbelievable $9.00 hamburger, so driving off-airport wasn’t necessary. Following lunch the intrepid SDWG air crew completed the final three-hour LLRS sortie of the year without any weather issues, which is rare at this time of the year.

When SDWG flew a LLRS, a command post is set up for C^3 support for the aircraft. SDWG Capt. Neil Schmid served as Incident Commander. Sioux Falls Composite Squadron’s Lt. Jerry Hayden was this year’s Operations Section Chief and Capt. Matt Meert was the Planning Coordinator.

Wing Commander Col. John Seten commended all of people involved, “The annual Low-Level Route Survey Mission is a very important one for the safety of military pilots training in the area. We are pleased and proud that the South Dakota Air National Guard entrusts this critical mission to us. All of our volunteer CAP aircrew members are to be commended for their dedication and professionalism in carrying out this mission.”

- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS:** SDWG flew nine aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over seven days in July in support of the state Department of Game, Fish & Parks and South Dakota State University. GF&P surveys deer, goats, mountain lions, and elk while SDSU surveys elk, bobcats and big horn sheep. The result was 32.6 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. The CAP pilot for three of the sorties was Lt. Col. Gary Hewett; two sorties were flown by Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese, and four sorties by Lt. Col. Albert Trumble. Depending on whom the sortie supported he was accompanied by one or more representatives from SDSU or from Game, Fish & Parks. The photo shows a mountain lion with a radio-telemetry collar.

- **LT. COL. MCKENNEY DEPLOYS TO PEORIA:** SDWG’s Lt. Col. Nancy McKenney deployed to Peoria, IL, on 20 July to assist the Red Cross. “They had a little bit of everything; flooding, tornadoes and more rain,” she said. The bad weather, tornadoes, torrential rain, flooding, started in June and has been ongoing. In Peoria she’ll handle government liaison work with the Red Cross. Previously, she has handled “mass care” - making sure the various Red Cross shelters have enough personnel, supplies and equipment. She had just left the 2015 Joint Dakotas Encampment when the Red Cross called asking her is she would be willing to deploy. Lt. Col. McKenney is frequently called on to deploy for weeks at a time when disaster strikes. Earlier this year, she was sent to Corpus Christi, Texas, for three weeks when flooding hit the state. **[Update: Lt. Col. McKenney is back home safe and sound.]**


- **ELLSWORTH AIRMEN DEPLOY TO AFGHANISTAN:** 350 airmen from Ellsworth Air Force Base are deploying to southwest Asia to provide support to forces in Afghanistan. A portion of the 28th Bomb Wing’s B-1 bomber fleet shipped out from the base in western South Dakota on 24 July. The airmen are going to provide air support and presence over Afghanistan. Officials say they’ll also conduct a variety of tasks to provide critical battlefield support and long-range strike capabilities. The deployment is expected to last six months.

Source: Argus Leader, Sunday, 26 July 2015, Page 3A.
SUBJECT: NATIONAL CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT WEEKEND

TUBING DOWN THE NIOBRARA RIVER 11-13 SEPTEMBER 2015

Squadrons - please send names of all seniors and cadets planning to attend this activity to Lt. Col. Linda Buechler no later than August 28, 2015. We need a list of names for tube reservations. There is a $30.00 tube rental per person. Either make payment via Eventbrite at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/niobrara-rafting-tickets-17975232404 (there is a service fee for Eventbrite) or send the $30.00 to SD Wing HQ, 4275 Airport Road, Suite A, Rapid City, SD 57703. Deadline for fee and names of persons attending is August 28, 2015. No additions after this date.

Please bring enough coolers for your squadron to hold water for your members to prevent dehydration, or, tube coolers rent for $10 each at the activity. Payment for coolers rented must also be remitted by the August 28 deadline. NO SODA ALLOWED ON THE TUBING ACTIVITY itself. Wing will be providing the meals for Saturday.

We will be bivouacking at Stormy's in downtown (Main Street) Winner. It is suggested squadrons arrive on Friday evening (even late in the evening). There are no showers available at this facility. Bring sleeping bags, etc. as you would for a SAREX. We will leave early Saturday morning - it is a 1 hour drive to the site. From our pickup site, they will transport us by bus to the drop off point where they will have all the requested tubes waiting. Very Important - There Are No Last Minute Adds For Additional Tubes. This will be a six-seven hour tubing experience. Life jackets are provided with the tube. We will be stopping throughout the activity for lunch, waterfall, etc.

Suggested wear for Saturday is either black or blue shorts and black t-shirts. Bring sunscreen, bug repellent, towel (optional), water camera, etc. Please wear footwear - suggested is water shoes or water sandals, no flip flops footwear.

We have food from encampment for meals - hamburgers, etc., available on Friday evening. You will need to pay for your own breakfast on Sunday morning as you leave for home. Planning is to provide meals for Saturday - more on this later. There is no cost for the meals at this event except Sunday breakfast.

At this time, transportation will be paid for corporate vehicles.

SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-58, BROOKINGS)
(See Cadet Officer Promotions Section)
CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068, CUSTER)
(Items submitted by Lt. K. Bierwirth)

- **SUBORDINATE UNIT INSPECTION:** The squadron is in a frenzy preparing for our SUI which will take place in early September. We are diligently working to ensure everything is ready and everyone is standing tall.

- **NEW CADET:** Welcome to our newest cadet, Ethan Updike. We are pleased that you have joined CAP and proud that you are a member of our squadron!

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-063, SPEARFISH)
(Items submitted by Lt. Col. Hopewell, photos by Capt. Collister)

- **SPEARFISH INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE:** The squadron participated in a big way in the Spearfish 4th of July parade. A color guard consisting of the C/Lt Justin Harris, C/SM Sgt Ryan Harris and C/CMSgt Connor Caneva lead the squadron van while BDU clad cadets C/Lt Doyle, C/AB Anderson and C/Col William Small followed the van demonstrating L-PER radio-direction-finding gear. After the parade a recruiting table was set up in Spearfish Park. Cadet Doyle, who inexplicably had brought along his trombone, spontaneously joined the 7th Cavalry Drum & Bugle Corp out of Rapid City in performing patriotic songs in Spearfish Park. We had some distinguished guests as World’s Junior Teen Miss South Dakota Tourism 2015 and World’s Teen Miss Sturgis Tourism 2015 requested that their pictures be taken with our group. Senior member participants were: Lt. Col. Jim Hopewell, Capt. Sylvia Small, Lt. David Small III and Maj. David Small. After all events were completed the CAP contingent retreated to Culver's to cool off with ice cream treats.

PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-038, PIERRE)
(See Cadet Airman Promotions Section)
RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-031, RAPID CITY)
(Item submitted by Lt. Black)

- **ELLSWORTH AFB AIRSHOW**: The squadron will be participating in the Ellsworth Air Force Base Air Show 15-16 August. We will set up and staff a recruiting booth. There will be two CAP aircraft on static display, our Cessna-182 and a Cessna-172 from Pierre Composite Squadron. In addition, personnel from Crazy Horse, Lookout Mountain, and Pierre Composite Squadrons will be supporting this event.

SIoux Falls Composite Squadron (SD-050, Sioux Falls)
(Items by Capt. Erickson, Capt. West, Lt. Col. Larson, photos by Capt. West)

- **HORACE MANN STUDENTS VISIT**: On 21 July, the squadron was visited by students and teachers from Horace Mann Elementary School in Sioux Falls. The students had read a book on wilderness flying and wanted to get a better understanding of what they had read. Their teacher, Mr. Todd Peterson, contacted Lt. Col. Larson for assistance. Lt. Col. Larson arranged for the squadron to set up flight simulators and had cadets on hand to assist and answer questions. Then the group trooped over to the hanger where they received a briefing and got to examine the squadron’s aircraft. The students gained an elementary understanding of how a plane works, what it takes to fly a plane and experienced sitting in the pilot seat. Participants were Members that assisted the visit were Lt. Col. Larson, Maj. Todd Epp, Capt. Jerry Zurovski, C/ Lt Nash, and C/CMSgts Hayden and Roblewski. We will host several more students soon and hope to get Mr. Peterson a "fly a teacher" flight.

- **EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING**: On 23 July, several cadets trained on ground-to-air signals. The cadets laid out the various colored panels used to communicate information from a ground search team to a CAP aircraft overhead. In the left photo are C/SrA Taylor Moyer, C/SrA Catherine Foy, C/SSgt Robert Boecker and C/SrA Christopher Schuppan. In the right photo are C/SrA Moyer and C/SSgt Boecker.
• **CADET ATTENDS CAP’S NATIONAL OFFICERS SCHOOL**: Cadet Major Nicole Schneider attended CAP’s prestigious National Cadet Officers School from 19-29 July. The NCOS is an academically challenging program designed to develop cadets’ broader understanding of leadership as a discipline. She joined 120 cadet colleagues from 36 states at NHQ at Maxwell Air Force Base for the 10-day, college-level course.

• **CADET ATTENDS NATIONAL BLUE BERET**: C/Lt Devon Brown attended this year’s National Cadet Special Activity “Blue Beret” at the Experimental Aircraft Association’s annual airshow “AirVenture 2015” held at Wittman Regional Airport at Oshkosh, WI.

![Blue Beret 2015](image.png)

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### PROMOTIONS

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**Cadet Officer Promotions**

Although not a promotion *per se*, congratulations to Nicole Schneider of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on her appointment as Cadet Operations Officer (Phase IV – Executive/Achievement 14), the first ghost rank before rising to Cadet Lieutenant Colonel!

Congratulations to Blake Hayden of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, to Jaden Petersen of Big Sioux Composite Squadron, and to Justin Harris of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron on promotion to the rank of Cadet Second Lieutenant and receipt of the milestone Billy Mitchell Award!

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**Cadet Airman Promotions**

Congratulations to Tyler Eberle of the Rushmore Composite Squadron and to John Hall of the Pierre Composite Squadron on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Airman and receipt of the Mary Feik Award!

Congratulations to Oscar Holmberg of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the General Hap Arnold Award!
Congratulations to Peter Engels of Big Sioux Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman and receipt of the General J.F. Curry Award!

Wing Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gary Rae has been appointed as an Assistant Wing Historian for his outstanding skills in locating and helping verify the eligibility of South Dakota World War II CAP veterans for the award of the CAP Congressional Gold Medal!

Congratulations to 2nd Lt. James Meert of the Rushmore Composite Squadron who completed the CAP Officer Basic Course!
REDCAP – On 18 August, the Union County Office of Emergency Management requested SDWG assist the Union County Sheriff in the search for the body of a swimmer reported missing near Elk Point on the Missouri River. On 19 August, a Sioux Falls based CAP Cessna-182 took off and flew to the geographic coordinates of the beach where the swimmer entered the water then searched downstream towards Ponca City making several passes along the area. The CAP aircrew consisted of Capt. Neil Schmidt (Mission Pilot), C/Maj Brandon West (Mission Observer) and Lt. Manny Steele (Mission Scanner). A second sortie was planned for late afternoon to take advantage of shadows cast by the changing position of the sun. However the body was located by ground units after the first sortie had returned to base and a second sortie was not needed.
**SPLIT SAREX**: On 29 August, the South Dakota Wing held its second state-wide training exercise for 2015. The activity is referred to as a “Split SAREX” (Search and Rescue Exercise), split because coordinated training is conducted simultaneously in the East River and West River areas. The focus was training aircrews, ground search teams and command staffs by using realistic search and rescue scenarios that mirror Civil Air Patrol’s real-world activity.

In the West River area an Incident Command Post was set up at the Wing Headquarters in Rapid City. They were joined by aircraft, vehicles and personnel from the Pierre Composite Squadron in Pierre and from the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer. Under the control of Incident Commander Col. Mike Beason three CAP aircraft flew search and rescue sorties from the squadron’s hangar at the Rapid City Regional airport. In addition, one ground search team operated from the squadron headquarters conducting similar training exercises as the aircraft. The Ground Team and the aircraft used interoperable communications to provide updated search information to each other.

In the East River area, a Staging Base was set up at the headquarters of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron at the Sioux Falls Airport. They were joined there by aircraft, vehicles and personnel from Big Sioux Composite Squadron from Brookings. Three CAP aircraft and three ground teams conducted training exercises similar to those in the West River area.

A Split SAREX gives participants the chance to work with Wing units that don’t often have the opportunity to train together with massed assets. The benefit of such training is teamwork and coordination between command
staff, aircrews and ground teams. In addition, a great deal of individual skills training was also accomplished.

- **ELLSWORTH AFB AIRSHOW:** By Maj. David Small. Saturday, 15 August, dawned warm and clear - a perfect day for an air show. By 0900 the crowds were pouring in, by the end of the weekend it was reported that over 17,000 people had visited the airshow. World War II and Korean War vintage aircraft performed for the crowd. At 1430 the Air Force Thunderbirds performed as the highlight of the show. Through it all over 20 CAP volunteers from Rushmore, Pierre and Lookout Mountain, cadets and seniors, hosted the hordes of visitors wanting a peek in a CAP 172 and 182 - and perhaps a chance to climb in the cockpit. Many more asked lots of questions and learned about CAP's role in the community. Maj Craig Goodrich worked with Ellsworth AFB personnel to get a CAP table and two aircraft in a prominent location at the show.

On Sunday the crowds were a bit thinner but no less traffic at the CAP table. Even USAF personnel from F-15 aircrew to Academy cadets came by to learn about CAP. Lt. Col DeWeese regaled two Academy sophomores with his stories as a T-38 instructor.

Members from all squadrons save Brookings made it to the show. Lt. Kris Bierwirth brought a contingent of cadets from Custer to enjoy the show on Sunday. Lt. Col. Greg Lair and C/SMSgt Julia Lair came from as far away as Sioux Falls. The Pine Ridge Squadron at Chadron, Nebraska squadron sent a contingent and one visitor introduced himself as a CAP senior member from the Las Vegas Composite Squadron

By Sunday afternoon we left for home sunburned and tired but with a list of over fifty people who showed an interest in CAP. Hopefully, we will have several new members who found CAP last weekend.

- **PERIPATETIC NANCY:** Once again SDWG’s Lt. Col. Nancy McKenney is deploying to assist the Red Cross. This time she is off to Browning Montana. The Red Cross is providing support and assistance to just
about everybody, responders and victims of the wildfires plaguing the western states. Lt. Col. McKenney commented that as Canada is right next door she will have to have her passport with her.

• **I’LL BE BACK:** As Arnold Schwarzenegger said in the terminator movies “I’ll be back” Lt. Col. Rick Larson, Capt. Neil Schmid and Maj. EW Filler went to Carson City, Nevada on 31 August to retrieve our refurbished Cessna-172 (N97947). Our aircraft underwent a complete makeover by Carson City Air Services. Our pilots will train on the new “GlassHawk” systems before they fly it back to Sioux Falls. The aircraft received a new paint job, a new interior, an all-new Garmin G500 “glass” avionics suite, and more. The refurbished CAP Cessna-172 will add yet another technologically advanced aircraft to South Dakota Wing’s two Garmin G1000-equipped Cessnas. We are also currently operating a Minnesota Wing Cessna-182 with retractable landing gear out of Brookings Regional Airport.

![CAPT. SCHMID, MAJ. EW FILLER, LT. COL. LARSON PRIOR TO MISSION](image1)

![NEW "GLASSHAWK" INSTRUMENT PANEL](image2)

• **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS:** SDWG flew eleven aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over seven days in August in support of the state Department of Game, Fish & Parks and South Dakota State University. GF&P surveys deer, goats, mountain lions, and elk while SDSU surveys elk, bobcats and big horn sheep. The result was 29 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. The CAP pilot for six of the sorties was Maj. Craig Goodrich; three sorties were flown by Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese and two sorties by Lt. Col. Albert Trumble. Depending on whom the sortie supported they were accompanied by one or more representatives from SDSU or from Game, Fish & Parks.

![WING COMMANDER](image3)

**WING COMMANDER**
Col. John Seten, CAP

I am pleased to inform you that South Dakota Wing was selected for recognition as the North Central Region winner of the Homeland Security/Counterdrug Mission Award. I accepted this major award on behalf of the Wing during the General Assembly session of the 2015 CAP National Conference in Orlando, Fl. I can think of
no greater accolade for the Wing than to be recognized by our peers with this award. It is a testament to the dedication and professionalism of our members that South Dakota Wing is preeminent in CAP.

I am equally pleased to inform you that Lt. Col. Linda Buechler, SDWG Director of Cadet Programs, Drug Demand Reduction Program Administrator and Health Services Officer, was named the Civil Air Patrol Drug Demand Reduction Member of the Year for 2015. She was presented this prestigious national award by CAP National Commander Maj. Gen. Joseph Vazquez at the 2015 CAP National Conference in Orlando, Fl. Her award is further testament to the outstanding caliber of people we have administering our Wing programs.

**WING DIRECTOR OF CADET PROGRAMS**

Lt. Col. Linda Buechler, CAP

Great things are happening with Cadet Programs! Go to the national CAP website and click on cadet news. Read the booklet Cadet News + Innovations. A few items of interest include:

There is a change to physical training; due to injuries cadets no longer do the shuttle run. A change is coming that allows mile runs to be "banked" during inclement weather such as in the winter. For now - commanders are asked to stop the shuttle run. Also, a possible "pacer run" is being worked on - more on that to come.

Cadet Aviation Ground School is a partnership with the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets. This is a two week course with intensive classroom training and a modern curriculum that leads cadets to passing a practice version of the FAA written exam. Participants must have passed an encampment. It’s an inexpensive alternative to flight academies. Go to [capmembers.com/GroundSchool](http://capmembers.com/GroundSchool) for more information

Cyber Defense Training Academy in 2016. With support of the 24th Air Force at Lackland AFB, TX, CAP is hosting cyber-themed NCSAs in 2016. This will include schools for new students, advanced students, and instructors. Also aiming for regional in-person workshops for prospective Cyber Patriot coaches - supported by CAP NHQ funding and personnel.

Subject to the National Uniform Committee assisting with technical uniform-related matters, in the works is a Cadet STEM Badge. Because cadets tend to do more with Model Rocketry through the STEM program, CAP/CC is working on a Cadet STEM Badge which would encourage cadets to include working on other STEM projects. This would have a Technician, Senior, and Master level program. Look for this possible change in the future.

The Training Leaders of Cadets Course is in revision. National Timeline is as follows:
1. Develop TLC Basic Course and TLC intermediate Course prototypes in Spring 2015, field test at the CAP Annual Conference - which was done.
2. Launch full TLC Basic and Intermediate Courses in December 2015.
3. Launch TLC Advanced Courses in April, 2016.
Check out [http://www.capmembers.com/cadet_programs/library/proving_grounds.cfm](http://www.capmembers.com/cadet_programs/library/proving_grounds.cfm). CAP is developing an advanced leadership program for college-aged cadets (must be at least 18 years of age) who wish to remain active in CAP though they are often living away from home and not able to serve in a traditional role in the squadron.

CPFT proposed changes would replace CPFT with the Presidential Youth Fitness Program. Rewrite CAPP 52-18 with practical ideas for squadron fitness activities, nutrition information and testing protocols. Move to quarterly CPFTs and allow results to "count" for six months. Gain appropriated (AF) funding for fitness equipment and activity kits.

Introduce a new Fitness Excellence Badge for cadets who surpass promotion requirements; cadets would re-qualify every six months to keep the badge. Testing events would be about the same - 1-mile run, push-ups, curl-ups, and sit-and-reach, though rules for latter have changed slightly. Shuttle run will be replaced with "the pacer". Pacer objective is to run as long as possible across a 15-meter field (e.g. long hallway) at a specified pace that gets faster over time. There will be a big difference in scoring and interpretation of results. Again, I recommend everyone read the booklet for detailed information. One great thing with the new program would be cadets test quarterly - testing is good for 6 months and would be used with each achievement during that six month time. This will be field tested by squadrons invited to trial this new program before being approved.

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**WING HISTORIAN**
Maj. Todd Epp, CAP

On 21 August, I set up a CAP exhibit in the lobby of the public library in Canton, just south of Sioux Falls. Items included are a "Smurf suit" loaned by Lt. Col. Myra Christensen, a Corporate Dress Uniform loaned by Maj. Todd Epp, various rank insignia and patches, DDR materials, model rockets, models of a Cessna-172 and Cessna-180 in CAP livery, various awards and plaques, photos of Sioux Falls cadets at the airport in 1945, blow-ups of WWII era newspaper articles about the creation of SDWG and CAP, and informational placards on SDWG’s history and missions. I thought you might like to see some photos of the exhibit. My thanks to head librarian Edith Nelson and librarians Jonette Chaon and Jane Klemme in helping to make this exhibit possible.
Around 7 September, SDWG, NDWG, and MTWG will start to fly Low-Level Route Surveys of the newly expanded Powder River Training Complex – a series of Military Operations Areas (MOA’s). The areas of the Powder River MOA Training Complex that require a Low Level Survey measure approximately 15,400 Sq NM. Watch your email for news about it. We will be looking for crews to fly a lot, very soon.

POWDER RIVER TRAINING COMPLEX

I went to several interesting sessions at the National Board Meeting held last week in Orlando. I hope all squadrons have found the New Level I implemented last fall to be a better fit when new members join. It is so important to get them started right away and involved in the training they need to be active, productive members. Make sure all Seniors have completed the new CPPT before working with or being around cadets!

We have many Seniors that could be promoted but are missing just one part of the puzzle for promotion. With the new Level I a member must enroll in a Specialty Track before Level I is complete. Remember: Specialty Tracks have levels! You start out with none, then Technician, Senior and Master. Do you know how to get from one level of your rating to the next? Here’s what you do: Read CAPR 50-17 Senior Program Regulation. It has a chart in the back that shows everything you need to progress through each level. The good news is you can do
anything on that chart in any order (except Region Staff College and National Staff College). Now that you know what your Specialty Track is you need to go to the Pamphlet section of the Publications and find your Specialty Track. They start with number 200 through 227. It tells you all about your Specialty Track and what you need to do to progress and the timeline it will take to go from Technician to Senior to Master. Find someone in your squadron or the wing that can mentor you, someone in the same Specialty Track or the Squadron Commander. Some have online tests to progress but 99% of each Specialty Track is on the job, doing the job, and using the outlines in the pamphlet that correlates with your track.

Every Senior should also keep track of all their activities: SAREX’s, Wing or Region Conferences, Awards. They all count as far as promotions and awards are concerned. Use the CAPF-45 found online. I don’t know about you but I can’t remember everything and need to write things down. This is where you can do it!!

I challenge every member to go to eServices and find out what you need in order to finish the Level you are in and then DO IT!!! If you need help contact me at: mary.donley@sdcap.us and we can figure it out together!!

Next month I am going to focus on Awards—so be prepared!!

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**WING ADMINISTRATOR**

Ms. Rachel Kuecker

Please do not let me forget something you sent. If you do not hear back from me, please remind me. It’s easy to overlook an e-mail or misplace a file (have you seen my desk?) at times, but if that one is your check request or a Squadron members check, I will feel bad. So please remind me, let me know you sent something and have not heard back from me. Calling me would be a good idea as well.

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**SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS**

**BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-58, BROOKINGS)**

(See Promotions Section under Cadet NCO Promotions below)

**CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068, CUSTER)**

(Items by Lt. K. Bierwirth, photos by Capt. V. Bierwirth)

- **SUBORDINATE UNIT INSPECTION**: In Real Estate location is the key word for selling property BUT, we’re not selling property we’re selling us; our unit, that is, for the SUI. So the last few months our members have been hearing organize, organize, organize! Preparing for the upcoming inspection is making us look better and feel better. What a job it is preparing for one, but after this the next one will go smoother.

- **PROSPECTIVE CADETS**: We’ve had three cadet prospects attend our meetings. Hopefully we’ll grow.

- **DAKOTA THUNDER AIRSHOW**: Several of us attended the Dakota Thunder Air Show on the 15th and 16th at Ellsworth AFB. What an amazing event. It was so fascinating it renewed our energy! Our members were able to watch the Thunderbirds perform after which we were able to chat with a couple of the pilots. Awesome!
**LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-063, SPEARFISH)**
(Items by Lt. Col. Hopewell, photos by Capt. Collister)

- **CADET COMMAND CHANGE:** On 20 August, a ceremony was held at the squadron headquarters on the campus of the Black Hills Airport. With the ceremonial passing of the unit guidon C/2nd Lt. Bradley Blansett transferred authority as Cadet Commander to C/1st Lt Jared Doyle. Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese presided, assisted by C/CMSgt Connor Caneva.

- **BILLY MITCHELL AWARD:** Also at the ceremony on 20 August, C/2nd Lt Justin Harris was officially presented with the Billy Mitchell Award. This prestigious award is earned through considerable time, study and testing. The Billy Mitchell Award, the second of four “milestone” awards, is most notable as it marks a cadet’s progress as he transitions from the cadet enlisted ranks into the cadet officer ranks.

  Wing Chief of Staff Maj. David Small, Jr. presented the award certificate to C/2nd Lt Harris.

**PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-038, PIERRE)**
(Items by Lt. Col. Gatje)

- **AUGUST SAREX:** Lt. Jon Becker acted as the transport pilot to get Lt. Col. Myra Christensen, Maj. Lee Vaughan and himself to the SAREX base in Rapid City. During the mission Lt. Col. Christensen and Maj. Vaughan provided communications coverage by flying the airborne repeater for several hours. This allowed personnel that might not have had radio coverage to work in contact with base and others, especially during the ELT searches. Three photo missions were flown with Lt. Col. Chuck Trumble as Pilot-in-Command, Lt. Becker
as Observer and Capt. Lisa Swanson and Capt. Doug Robbins alternating as photographers. Lt. Col. Christensen and Maj. David Small worked with the ground teams during an ELT search.

- **ELLSWORTH AFB OPEN HOUSE DISPLAY:** Lt. Col. Myra Christensen flew Cessna-172P (N98776) to Ellsworth AFB on 14 August to have it in place for a CAP static display on 15-16 August at the 2015 Dakota Thunder Airshow. Large crowds attended on both Saturday and Sunday with more spectator activity on Sunday. CAP had two aircraft on display; one from Rapid City, and the Pierre bird. The members involved included Lt. Col. Christensen, Col. Mike Beason and Maj. Craig Goodrich.

- **MINNESOTA WING ENCAMPMENT:** C/SMSgt Jonathan Gregory attended the 2015 Minnesota Wing Cadet Encampment recently held at Camp Ripley, MN. C/SMSgt Gregory transferred to the Pierre Composite Squadron after his family moved to the area. Welcome to Pierre!

**RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-031, RAPID CITY)**

(See Ellsworth AFB Airshow above)

**SIOUX FALLS COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-050, SIOUX FALLS)**

(Items by Capt. West, photos by Maj. Johnson)

- **AOPA ANOKA FLY-IN:** [By C/Lt Nicholas Nash] On 21-22 August, squadron members attended the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association Fly-In at the Anoka County Airport in Minnesota. Friday morning we toured the FAA Air Traffic Control Center in Minneapolis. We were briefed on the missions and procedures, led through the Center’s work modules on the “floor”, and actually got to sit one-on-one with an Air Traffic Controller and watch them in action. The next event was a tour of a WWII aviation museum. The docents were a WWII veteran fighter pilot and a WWII veteran helicopter mechanic. We learned the functions and design of an ejection seat, saw exclusive footage from 9/11, toured hangers full of old training cockpits and jet engines, and walked through a static display of WWII aircraft. That evening was the surprise event planned by Capt. Erickson: the “Cirrus Life” Reception for Cirrus owners. We listened to the President of Cirrus speak about the new Cirrus Vision Jet, and toured a private hanger full of completely restored vintage aircraft. The Fly-In officially began Saturday morning. We were on the airfield bright and early for pancakes before splitting up to see as many airplanes as possible. The day consisted mostly of walking from airplane to airplane, taking pictures, talking to the pilots, and even sitting in a few cockpits. The Main Stage held interesting guest speakers all with the same passion for aviation as we have. All in all, the event was a resounding success; one of the most unique and entertaining Aerospace Education trips of the year!
CADET COMMAND CHANGE: On 6 August, a traditional and time honored ceremony was held at squadron headquarters. Cadet Major Nicole Schneider passed command of the squadron’s Cadet Corps to Cadet First Lieutenant Nicholas Nash.

Maj. Justin Johnson, who at the time was the Squadron Deputy Commander for Cadets, presented the squadron guidon to C/1st Lt Nash. In doing so he symbolically and officially passed to him the authority and responsibility of command.

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT: Capt. Jason Erickson held a Character Development seminar for cadet members of the squadron at the meeting on 6 August. The seminar was focused on the importance of mutual respect and the positive impact it can have on unit discipline and morale. The seminar was well received by the cadets and engendered some interesting discussion, comments and suggestions.

PROMOTIONS

Senior Member Promotions

Congratulations to Carl Lusty-Wallace, and to Kevin Gross, both of Rushmore Composite Squadron on their promotion to the rank of Second Lieutenant!

Cadet Officer Advancement

Congratulations to C/1st Lt Devon Brown of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on appointment as Cadet Administrative Officer (Phase III – Command/Achievement 10),
**Cadet Officer Promotion**

Congratulations to Jaden Roblewsky of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Second Lieutenant and receipt of the milestone Billy Mitchell Award!

**Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions**

Congratulations to Hannah Becker of the Pierre Composite Squadron, to Julia Lair of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, and to Graham Dinnel of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Master Sergeant and receipt of the Jimmy Doolittle Award!

Congratulations to Andrew Toft of Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Master Sergeant and receipt of the Charles Lindbergh Award!

Congratulations to Robert Boecker of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Technical Sergeant and receipt of the Captain Eddie Rickenbacker Award!

Congratulations to Taylor Umland-Moyer of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Staff Sergeant and receipt of the Wright Brothers Award!

Congratulations C/CMSgt Josiah Huntington of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron who was recognized by the local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Chapter as the Outstanding Squadron NCO of the Year! The award is based on demonstrating outstanding leadership qualities in CAP, having high moral character, patriotism and professionalism. The award was presented on behalf of the VFW by squadron Commander Capt. Jason Erickson.
Congratulations to C/Lt Nicholas Nash of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron who was recognized by the local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Chapter as the Outstanding Squadron Officer of the Year! The award is based on demonstrating outstanding leadership qualities in CAP, having high moral character, patriotism and professionalism. The award was presented on behalf of the VFW by squadron Commander Capt. Jason Erickson.

Congratulations to Capt. Karla West of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on being awarded a squadron Challenge Coin in appreciation of her excellence in everything she does in support of the senior members, the cadets and the missions of the squadron.

Congratulations to Lt. Col. Matt Martin of Rushmore Composite Squadron on successful completion of his Form-5.

Thank you to Lt. Col. Jerry Densmore for taking care of the Wing HQ’s office while the Wing Administrator was on vacation.

More than 70 years ago, two young women from South Dakota decided they wanted to do something to help their country during World War II. Pauline Brehe of Pierre and Lois Schmidt of Agar were part of a small group of women who served in the South Dakota Civil Air Patrol during the war; something most girls weren’t doing in the 1940s. A lot has changed in the past seven decades, but their service hasn't been forgotten. On 24 August, Gov. Dennis Daugaard presented Congressional Gold Medals to Pauline and Lois for their WWII CAP service.
Lois and Pauline were founding members of the Pierre Composite Squadron and among the first women in not just South Dakota but the United States to become CAP members. Pauline joined CAP in 1942 as a senior member. She later served in the Army as a medical/surgical technician. The day after the ceremony Pauline celebrated her 88th birthday. Lois joined CAP in 1943 as a cadet. She returned to CAP in the 1960s and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

The medal is being given to members of the Civil Air Patrol during WWII for their role in protecting the U.S. coasts against German U-boat attacks during the war and in carrying out a wide variety of wartime domestic missions. Daugaard said during the ceremony at the state Capitol that he was glad to honor the women for helping create a great legacy of service to the nation.
Mountain Fury: From 11 to 13 September, eleven Civil Air Patrol pilots from across the South Dakota Wing participated in “Mountain Fury”, CAP’s Mountain Search Pilot Course. The purpose of the course was to train CAP Mission Pilots to be mountain-qualified CAP Mission Pilots. The activity was directed by Maj. Craig Goodrich, Commander of the Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City. Day one and part of day two were spent in classes on the physics, skills, techniques and perils of mountain flying. The classroom training was at the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron Headquarters in Custer. The blocks of classroom instruction were held on high altitude flying (Capt. Josh Hall), mountain weather (Maj. Craig Goodrich), mountain flying (Col. Mike Beason) and mountain searching (Capt. Matt Meert).

The rest of day two and day three were spent flying training sorties. Flight operations were at the Custer County Airport at Custer. Each mission pilot flew four mission training sorties. Although the elevation of the Black Hills of South Dakota do not provide the kind of mountainous terrain that other mountain states can provide, many of the sorties were flown up around 10,000 feet MSL, and reduced power settings simulated “real” mountain flying. Plus, Custer County Airport and Custer State Park Airport are no walk-in-the-park. A pilot must be thinking about mountain flying to operate in and out of these challenging airports. A total of 25 sorties were flown during the training with seven of the pilots earning or renewing their Mountain Flying Certification.

Capt. Kurt Johnson of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, one of the mission pilots that went through the training said, "I personally gained a great deal of experience and respect for operating safely in "hot and high" environments. Our aircraft take on a whole new set of flight characteristics under these conditions. As pilots, we all read about this...but, the practical experience provided in this clinic was priceless! I feel no mission pilot should exercise their ratings in mountainous terrain without this training or similar practical experience!"
Maj. Goodrich remarked, “Everyone stepped in to help with meals, cleanup, sortie management, and watching over safety. I especially want to thank the First Baptist Church of Custer, who operates Camp Victory, across the road from the airport, for their hospitality in allowing us to use their facilities for lodging and meals. The nearly perfect weather, camaraderie, and storytelling around the campfire each night helped make this weekend a great event.”

- **FIRST GLASSHAWK MISSION:** From 4 – 6 September, pilot proficiency training and familiarization with our new glass panel Cessna-172 (N97947) took place. By coincidence the LifeLight Music Festival, held annually over the Labor Day weekend on the Pederson Farm just east of Worthing was taking place. It provided the aircrew an excellent opportunity to practice mission skills such as aerial observation, aerial photography and a chance to test radio interoperability with the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office. Experience was gained using Spidertracks, the in-flight, near-real-time aircraft tracking system. Personnel involved with the activity on 4 September were Capt. Kurt Johnson (MP), Lt. Col. Rick Larson (MO) and SM Kevin Kayser (MS); on 5 September they were Lt. Jerry Hayden (MP), Lt. Col. Rick Larson (MO) and Lt. Shane Warne; and on 6 September they were Maj. Justin Johnson (MP), Lt. Col. Rick Larson (MO) and Lt. Melanie Schuppan (MS).
• **SHE’S BACK-GONE-BACK**: Lt. Col. Nancy McKenney of Onida, and a member of the Wing Staff, deployed to assist the Red Cross in Browning Montana from late August to early September. Home barely long enough to catch her breath she deployed to California from late September to early October to assist in disaster relief/shelter operations. The Red Cross provided assistance to just about everyone; responders and victims of the wildfires plaguing the western states. Lt. Col. McKenney is now home again, safe and sound.

• **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS**: SDWG flew 13 aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over eight days in September in support of the state Department of Game, Fish & Parks and South Dakota State University. GF&P surveys deer, goats, mountain lions, and elk while SDSU surveys elk, bobcats and big horn sheep. The result was 30.1 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. The CAP pilot for one of the sorties was Maj. Craig Goodrich; one sortie was flown by Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese and 11 sorties were flown by Lt. Col. Gary Hewitt. Depending on whom the sortie supported they were accompanied by one or more representatives from SDSU or from Game, Fish & Parks.

• **B-1 TRANSITIONS TO GLOBAL STRIKE**: By Amy McCullough. [Edited] The 7th Bomb Wing at Dyess AFB, Texas, and the 28th BW at Ellsworth AFB, S.D., will hold realignment ceremonies on 28 September, marking transition of the B-1 fleet from Air Combat Command to Air Force Global Strike Command. The move means the Air Force's entire bomber fleet - B-52, B-2, and B-1 - will be consolidated under the command of 8th Air Force. The transition should be relatively seamless for the roughly 7,000 airmen involved. 8th AF Commander Maj. Gen. Richard Clark told Air Force Magazine, "They will wear a different patch, but aside from that it won't be a significant change". Even though all three of the service's bombers are "unique weapon systems," Clark said "the core competency of long-range strike is something common to all" and the B-1 transition will help "build synergy" within the bomber community.


• **3-D METAL CESSNA-172 MODEL**: Amazon is advertising a 3-D metal model Cessna-172 (Skyhawk) in CAP livery. The model is marked down from $22 to $6.62 for Prime members. Supposedly there are only 20 left in stock. Might be a nice item to add to your CAP collection or to use as a squadron gift or award. The link is: [http://www.amazon.com/Metal-Earth-3D-Model-Skyhawk/dp/B009UZ7CCK](http://www.amazon.com/Metal-Earth-3D-Model-Skyhawk/dp/B009UZ7CCK)

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**STAFF NOTES**

**WING HISTORIAN**

Maj. Todd Epp, CAP

I am pleased to announce that the new “Wing History” section of the wing website is now available for viewing. The new section is part of the celebration of CAP’s and concurrently South Dakota Wing’s 75th Anniversary in 2016. The new section consists of three parts. The first part is “History”. This is where the Wing Historical Staff...
will place documents relating to the history of South Dakota Wing. The second part is “Genealogy”. Maj. Kipp has worked hard to come up with a list of the units that have been part of South Dakota wing since its founding in 1941. The third part is “Heraldry”. It contains photos, descriptions and information about the Region, Wing and Squadron patches. All three parts are works in progress. If anyone has a suggestion as to a document to be uploaded to history, new, amplifying or correcting information on former SDWG units, or more information on the patches we wear, please contact a member of the Wing Historical Staff.

DIRECTOR OF LOGISTICS
Capt. Jerry Foy, CAP

1 October 2015 is the start of another fiscal year for Civil Air Patrol and a great time for our annual inventory when we need to account for all CAP items entrusted to our wing. While this message is focused on those in charge of protecting our wing’s aircraft, vehicles, communication and other equipment and supplies, we are all responsible to make sure we get the most utilization out of those assets that are entrusted to us. If you know that any of the above items are no longer needed, not operational, no longer safe, degraded or missing, please report that information to your Logistics Officer as soon as can. If you are approved to take item(s) out of your squadron, be sure you have that items signed out on your squadron log book. Sign it back in when it returns and let your Logistics Officer know immediately if that item is not operational or safe.

Yes, we do like to get rid of junk. One year we got rid of 114 items and that included 3 or 4 vehicles. Let your Logistics Officer know about potential junk who will start the possible disposal through SDWG.

If an item needs repair, we will try to repair it. If you need a spare while your item is being repaired let us know and will get you a spare. If the item cannot be repaired as determined by your Logistics Officer and SDWG, we will work to replace that item as funds allow.

If you feel your squadron needs additional equipment, please let us know. We might have stock on what you need, new or slightly used. We can also receive items from other agencies that no longer need the products.

If your squadron is offered a donation of any equipment, please contact your Logistics Officer before you accept it. Unless you are the commander, you do not have that authority.

If you have items that do not have the CAP asset tag on them, tell your Logistics Officer. National HQ has raised the dollar value prior to requiring the items to be tagged and added to our inventory.

If you no longer need equipment, let your Logistics Officer. Another squadron might need it.

If you find an item that you thought was lost (maybe for more than “a while”), bring it back and we will be happy. Yes, people who cannot find items during our annual inventory sometimes suddenly find that missing item a month later. It happens a lot. You are ok, just bring it back!

Please take care of your equipment - keep the vehicles cleaned, waxed, oiled and gassed up. Keep your computers and radios operating properly. You will need our inventory.

Keep your entire inventory ready to use immediately. If you are the Logistics Officer and need assistance, give me a call.
SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-58, BROOKINGS)
(Items submitted by Capt. Hofer)

- **MINNESOTA LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**: We have three members who will attend the Minnesota Wing Leadership Academy 15-18 October at the Minnesota National Guard’s Camp Ripley, near the city of Little Falls in central Minnesota. They are: Lt. Josh Hartelt, C/Lt Col Joshua Klosterman and C/Lt Jaden Petersen.

- **SUPPORT TO THE RED CROSS**: The squadron provided support to the Red Cross’ Prepare-a-Thon and Disaster-Themed Fun Walk/Run in Brookings on 19 September. It was an afternoon filled with disaster-themed events. There were community booths to educate people on how to be prepared when disaster happens and a children’s obstacle course where they splashed through “flood waters” and climbed over “storm debris”.

- **LOANER AIRCRAFT**: The Minnesota Wing has temporarily loaned a Cessna-182RG, a variant with a retractable landing gear, to SDWG. We are fortunate that the aircraft is parked here in Brookings where it is available for operational missions. This was one of the planes shown on the news from our last SAREX.

- **CADET O-RIDES**: We were pleased to have been able to conduct cadet orientation flights in September. C/A1C Darin Burke and C/Amn Andrew Sweebe were each able to fly twice in September.

CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068, CUSTER)
(Items submitted by Lt. Bierwirth, photos by Lt. Bierwirth and Capt. Bierwirth)

- **SUI IS OVER**: Whew, our SUI is over. We did very well (whew, big happy sigh!).

- **GREAT START PARTICIPANT**: Cadet Ethan Updike attended the Great Start program recently held by the Rushmore Composite Squadron. Many thanks to Maj. Goodrich and his crew for holding the event.

- **MODEL ROCKETRY**: Capt. Victoria Bierwirth taught a Goddard rocketry class to several Custer High School 9th grade classes.

- **MOUNTAIN FURY/O-RIDES**: We hosted the Mountain Fury Course and what an exciting time it was. Many pilots got some awesome air time and they were even gracious enough to give four of our cadets a feel for the air. For C/SrA Anthony Dillon, C/SMSgt Thomas Dillon, C/A1C Hunter Rice, and C/AB Updike it was a thrill of a lifetime. They thought the landings were pretty cool as they were bumpy and a lot of fun. Two cadets did take the controls and thought it was pretty sweet, the other two decided to wait until next time as it was their first time in a plane. Lt. Kris Bierwirth even had her first time in a CAP plane and she has decided it may be a little while before she goes up again.
- **AEROSPACE EXCELLENCE AWARD**: For a second year in a row our squadron earned the Aerospace Excellence Award. What a great team we are building!

L.T. TIM MODDE, CAPT. JAMES DILLON, C/LT JASON PARRY, C/SMSGT THOMAS DILLON, CADET ETHAN UPDIKE, C/1C HUNTER RICE, C/SRA ANTHONY DILLON, CAPT. VICTORIA BIERWIRTH

**LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-063, SPEARFISH)**
(See Cadet Airman Promotions)

**PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-038, PIERRE)**
(Items by Lt. Col. Gatje)

- **RIVER TUBING TRIP CANCELLED**: The planned tubing trip down the Niobrara River for members of the South Dakota Wing was cancelled due to colder than normal weather at the intended location. Due to other upcoming events and the weather deteriorating into fall, it was determined that it would probably not be feasible to hold the trip this year. Cadets and seniors that are interested in this trip for next year should contact Lt. Col. Myra Christensen, Pierre, or Lt. Col. Linda Buechler, Wing Staff. The date for the event will probably be earlier in the year with the hopes of good weather. Watch for an announcement of the dates for next year.

- **PIERRE FUN NIGHT**: The Squadron recently held their “Fun Night”, which occurs on the fifth Tuesday of any month that has five Tuesdays. Pizza and soda was served and a movie shown. The squadron and a cadet parent provided pizza. Everyone definitely had their fill. Best of all, four potential cadets attended the event.

**RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-031, RAPID CITY)**
(Item and photos submitted by Maj. Goodrich, Capt. Ryan Jones)

- **CADET GREAT START**: On 26 September, new CAP cadets from all three west-river squadrons joined together at the Rushmore Composite Squadron for a Great Start clinic. Some of the classes covered leadership, aerospace education, chain of command, the CAP rank structure and proper wear of the uniform. After great grilled burgers and grilled corn by Chef (Capt.) Ryan Jones, The cadets also completed a physical fitness test composed of pushups, sit-ups and a one-mile run. The course is the first of its type held in western South Dakota. Crazy Horse Composite Squadron sent one cadet and Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron sent one
C/Lt Doyle also came from Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron and played a key role as instructor for a portion of the day. He was a huge help with teaching. The course is designed to help our newest cadets earn their first stripe and the Curry Award. In total the course resulted in 10 cadets receiving their first stripe. It was a very successful day, the new cadets left for home at the end of the day more motivated than ever about CAP. See the Cadet Airman Promotions section below for the names of our squadron’s six new Cadet Airmen.

As a special bonus at the end of the day, Cadets Bentley, Mckeehan, Spence and Helgeland all got to fly in their first CAP orientation flights, thanks to pilots Col. Mike Beason and Lt. Col. Gary Hewett.

- **WELCOME ABOARD:** September was a BUSY month for recruiting!!! We welcome aboard 10 new cadets and four new senior members to the Rushmore Composite Squadron. The new cadets are: Keri Bentley, Nathan Carl, Lucas Dimitt, Keithen Griffin, Mason Helgeland, Amelia Jensen, Ana Mckeehan, Noah Moore, Andrew Olsen and Brandon Spence. The new Senior Members are: Cheryl Dimitt, David Galluzzo, Merlyn Mccoy, and Kenton Mckeehan. We are very pleased that you have joined CAP as members of our squadron.

**SIOUX FALLS COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-050, SIOUX FALLS)**

- **COLOR GUARD PERFORMANCE:** On 26 September, the squadron Color Guard performed at the Sioux Falls Special Olympics Truck Convoy. The World's Largest Truck Convoy is held annually in September. Drivers from across the state drive their big rigs on a designated route circling Sioux Falls in an effort to raise money and public awareness for the Special Olympics. Many drivers are accompanied by Special Olympics athletes during this trek. After the convoy, drivers and athletes were joined by family members, friends and law enforcement personnel for lunch, entertainment, an auction, and a presentation of awards.
**FROM CADET TO SEAMAN:** Lt. Col. Linda Buechler and family attended her grandson's (Brandon Purkapile) graduation from Great Lakes Naval Training Center, Chicago, Ill, on Friday, September 4, 2015. Seaman Recruit Purkapile was a cadet member of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron from 2008-2009 with the rank of C/Airman. Brandon said CAP training through encampment, cadet curriculum, and the physical training helped him prepare for training with the Navy and military life.

After some additional training Brandon will go to the fleet for a month to decide what his military occupational specialty will be. Currently he is thinking of training as a Gunner’s Mate. The training focuses on the operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of naval guns, missile launchers and torpedoes as well as a strong emphasis on basic explosives, guidance and tracking systems, small arms, Naval ammunition classification, and safety. Upon completion of this training, seamen often continue on to a specialized school, where they learn a particular weapons system.

**SIDEWALK ARTS FESTIVAL:** A hardy group of seniors and cadets dragged themselves out at o-dark thirty (actually 0430) to provide support to the Sioux Falls Sidewalk Arts Festival. While still dark the members set up tents, tables and chairs, and placed garbage and recycling cans throughout the event area.

The one-day downtown festival, held on 12 September, is a fundraiser for the Visual Arts Center of the Washington Pavilion. The festival featured over 225 vendors from over 10 states, a large food court and live entertainment. 40,000 were expected to attend this annual event.

**NEW DEPUTY COMMANDER FOR CADETS:** As the Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw wrote, “Progress is impossible without change.” Progress through change is what the squadron is looking forward to in the coming months. Maj. Justin Johnson has stepped down as Deputy Commander for Cadets for the squadron and Maj. Nick Gengler has assumed the role. Johnson stated that his work schedule is not allowing him to devote the time it takes to run the cadet program at this time and is pleased that Maj. Gengler is willing to accept the challenge. Capt. Jason Erickson is looking forward to positive advancement from the cadet program with leadership from the cadet staff. Maj. Johnson’s mantra was that “the cadets run the show; seniors are around to offer guidance when needed.” This is something Maj. Gengler plans to uphold. The cadets at SFCS have a solid program and with the leadership from C/Lt Nick Nash and his staff they will continue to make the program a success. In the photo C/Lt Nash and Maj. Gengler discuss plans for the cadet program.

**SQUADRON OPEN HOUSE:** The squadron will host an open house for the community on 10 October from 0900-1200 at the hangars northwest of Nelson Engineering on 500 W. Hanger St. Come tour our hangar and our aircraft, as well as talk to our pilots about their experiences. There will be cadet-led tours of our Squadron Headquarters. Burgers and dogs will be provided at no charge, members please bring something to add to the grill out. Those participating, please be at the hangar by 0800 to help setup.
Senior Member Promotions

Congratulations to William Collister, commander of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron, on his promotion to the rank of Major!

Congratulations to Tim Modde of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Second Lieutenant!

Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions

Congratulations to Nathaniel Fleet of Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Chief Master Sergeant and receipt of the Dr. Robert H Goddard Award!

Congratulations to Kyle Clement of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Master Sergeant and receipt of the Charles Lindbergh Award!

Cadet Airman Promotions

Congratulations to Hunter Rice of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the General Hap Arnold Award!

Congratulations to Kari Bentley, Spence Brandne, Lucas Dimitt, Ana Mckeehan, Noah Moore, Nathan Carlin I and Logan Wallace, all of Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City, and to Brooklyn Raber of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron in Spearfish on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman and receipt of the General J.F. Curry Award!

KUDOS

Congratulations to Senior Member Cheryl Dimitt of Rushmore Composite Squadron on her receipt of the Membership Ribbon! The award is presented for completion of Level I of the Senior Member Professional Development Program.
**GLIDING IN MINNESOTA**: By Capt. Neil Schmid. It was a great day for flying for the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on Saturday, 17 October. A fortuitous confluence of events led to the availability of two Sioux Falls based SDWG aircraft, a MNWG glider, six cadets and several senior members for a day of powered orientation flights and gliding over the Mankato Minnesota countryside.

Getting from Sioux Falls to Mankato was half the fun. Lt. Jerry Hayden was pilot in command and orientation pilot for Cadet Kyle Clement, with Cadets Taylor Moyer and Kyle Kreger as backseaters in the squadron’s new Cessna-172 “GlassHawk”. This aircraft features state of the art Garmin G500 and GTN650 “glass” cockpit instrumentation and navigation systems. Capt. Neil Schmid piloted the squadron’s Cessna-182 G1000 equipped aircraft and was the orientation pilot for Cadet Nick Nash. This was Nash’s final powered orientation flight, which covered aviation topics such as weather, compensating for wind by crabbing, wake turbulence avoidance, and how climb rate is affected by temperate and altitude. Back seat flyers were Cadets Max Moline and Robert Boecker.

Once the crews landed at Mankato at 1130, an initial introduction to gliders was given by MNWG Maj. Carl Hallum. After pre-flight checks the glider was moved to Mankato’s long grass runway. Then the Cessna-172 tow-plane underwent pre-flight checks. This aircraft has a special “climb” propeller and flying it is somewhat tricky because the difference between the stall speed of the Cessna and the maximum speed of the glider isn’t all that great. This was Capt. Schmid’s first time as a tow-pilot trainee and at the conclusion of seven glider tows he was getting the hang of it.

The gliders were towed to an altitude of 2,500 feet and released. The glider remained aloft for about 15 minutes for each flight. The glider was flown by orientation pilot MNWG Capt. William Pagel and he successfully
mented SDWG Cadets Kreger (glider flight #3), Moyer (glider flight #1), Boecker (glider flight #1), Clement (glider flight #1 & 2), Moline (glider flight #1), and Nash (glider flight #3). Under the CAP Orientation Flight Program each cadet is entitled to five powered orientation flights and five glider flights. It was a cool day and by the end of the glider flights pilot Pagel was a bit chilly because the glider is drafty and without a heater.

On the way home, Lt. Hayden piloted the Cessna-182 with Cadet Boecker at the controls and Capt. Schmid piloted the Cessna-172 with Cadet Moyer receiving his third powered flight experience. Everyone was smiling at the end of the day with the great experience of flight Thanks to Lt. Col. Greg Lair for herding the cats on this one and to Lt. Jerry Hayden for coordination on the ground.
GLIDER FLIGHT OPERATIONS
AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS: SDWG flew eight aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over seven days in October in support of the state Department of Game, Fish & Parks and South Dakota State University. GF&P surveys deer, goats, mountain lions, and elk while SDSU surveys elk, bobcats and big horn sheep. The result was 19.9 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. The CAP pilot for the sorties was Lt. Col. Gary Hewitt. Depending on whom the sortie supported they were accompanied by one or more representatives from SDSU or from Game, Fish & Parks.

EXPANDED POWDER RIVER COMPLEX OPENS FOR TRAINING: By Arie Church. The Air Force recently opened the expanded Powder River Training Complex to military flight operations and plans to host its first large-scale training exercise there early next month, officials announced. Powder River is now the largest training airspace in the Continental United States, spanning 35,000 square miles over the Dakotas, Montana, and Wyoming, to provide nearby bases with closer training areas. The expanded sectors are limited to 10 days of use each year, and large-forces exercises in these sectors are restricted to no more than three days at a time, every three months, according to the Nov. 2 release. The Federal Aviation Administration updated civil aeronautical charts and cleared the Air Force to begin military training flights in the new sectors on Sept. 17, and the first large-force exercise is planned for Dec. 2-3, according to officials at Ellsworth AFB, S.D. The expanded range specifically provides training space for Air Force Global Strike Command bombers based at neighboring Ellsworth and Minot AFB, N.D.

WEBINAR WEBSITE: NHQ has established a website for Ops Training Webinars. It has downloads from past ops webinars: www.capmembers.com/emergency_services/operations_support/education_and_training/operations-training-webinars/

The new “CAP Vector”, a quarterly, online news/information tool designed to get the word out on CAP initiatives, events and programs is at: www.capmembers.com/cap_national_hq/cap_vector_staff_updates/.

The digital Oct-Dec 2015 issue of Volunteer is at www.capvolunteernow.com/cap_volunteer/. Just click on the Volunteer cover or the link under the cover. In addition to the story about an Air Force grant that helped disadvantaged cadets attend CAP encampments nationwide, the E-edition of the Volunteer includes CAP’s response to historic flooding in Texas, Oklahoma and Missouri earlier this year. In addition, there is coverage of CAP’s efforts to improve pilot proficiencies and promote aerospace education through the use of STEM Kits. Be sure to check out the videos on pages 8, 19, 38 and 44.

STAFF NOTES

WING COMMANDER
Col. John Seten, CAP

A while ago I announced a Wreaths Across America contest. The WAA program is endorsed by the CAP and is a great way to honor our fallen veterans and get involved with our communities. More information can be found at www.wreathsacrossamerica.org. This fundraiser is a great way to put some money into your unit’s bank account, honor fallen veterans and get involved with your community.
The SD Wing will reward participating squadrons as follows:

The squadron selling the most wreaths in the program will receive $500
The squadron selling the second most wreaths in the program will receive $300
The squadron selling the third most wreaths in the program will receive $250
The remaining participating squadrons will receive $100 each

In order to receive any of the awards from Wing the squadrons will have to sell a minimum of 100 wreaths. The contest will end on 30 November.

I wish you all a great selling season and am excited to see the results.

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WING DIRECTOR OF CADET PROGRAMS
Lt. Col. Linda Buechler, CAP

Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings is one of two units selected by North Central Region to attend the National Cadet Competition in December 2016. Each Region HQ has the opportunity to send two squadrons in their Region for the competition. Wing Directors of Cadet Programs were asked to notify their Wing’s units so they could decide if they wish to attend. Big Sioux is the only squadron that responded positively. I notified the NCR DCP and was informed a Minnesota Wing squadron had also requested to attend the competition. Congratulations Big Sioux Composite Squadron on your selection. We wish you well!

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WING HISTORIAN
Maj. Todd Epp, CAP

- The new “Wing History” section of the wing website continues to evolve. An NHQ order dated 1 October 1942 that created the CAP cadet program has been added to the “History” category as have two photos of Sioux Falls cadets probably taken in 1946 at the Sioux Falls Airport. The red box in the photos shows Cadet Walter Wilson, whose family will soon receive the Congressional Gold Medal for his CAP WWII service. A revised list of South Dakota Wing units has been added to the “Genealogy” category, and the patch for the Sioux Falls Cadet Squadron has been added to the “Heraldry” category. The Wing History section is part of the celebration of CAP’s and concurrently South Dakota Wing’s 75th Anniversary in 2016. All three sections are works in progress. If anyone has a suggestion as to a document to be added to the “History” section; some new, amplifying or correcting information on former SDWG units for the “Genealogy” section; or information on patches for the “Heraldry” section, please contact a member of the Wing Historical Staff.

- South Dakota Wing - anticipate CAP’s 75th Anniversary in 2016! Chaplain Rae has obtained six small sized WWII Uniforms, including Eisenhower coats in both Army and US Air Force 1950’s blues, summer khaki shirts, two covers and khaki service coat/utilities. All are best suited for smaller cadets who want to be part of displaying CAP uniforms from that era. Any units that wish to make use of these uniforms, which still need to be completed, should contact Chaplain Lt. Col. Rae at gwrae@juno.com. The wool uniforms have been dry cleaned and pressed; cotton uniforms have been wash and ironed. Now is the time to begin planning your local
celebrations in anticipation of our upcoming Wing Conference! Vanguard has available patches and devices such as wings, CAP shoulder patches and more at www.vanguardmil.com/collections/cap-historical-insignia

WING ADMINISTRATOR
Ms. Rachel Kuecker

October was Breast Cancer Awareness month. No one is more aware than I am. This month has always been awareness month, and with a sea of pink everywhere it is hard to overlook. I think everyone is “aware” but when you are the one fighting for your life – aware is just not enough. I have recently joined an organization no one ever plans to join. No one ever volunteers to join it, but it is a very sincere, family oriented group and we are all trying to saves lives. We are suddenly members trying to save and support our own lives. I have joined a breast cancer sisterhood of fighters.

Some of you know and some of you may not know. I was recently diagnosed with breast cancer. This was a huge shock as I suppose it is to anyone who hears this news. I have no family history and I am young. I have an 8 year old and an 11 year old. Cancer? Are you sure?

Breast cancer is not a find that I wish to have on my resume. But it is there and I feel as if I must share that awareness is not always fool proof. I did the right things, I had my yearly mammograms, I may not exercise or eat right all the time, but I tried. Still, like being swept away from a flash flood, I was suddenly helpless and in need of being saved. I wish I could have “found” this lump earlier. Mammograms don’t always find or see what we can feel. So my public service announcement and safety report for the month is: Do your monthly exams. Get checked out and report anything that is not right to you. Request an ultrasound and find out if you have dense tissue. It could have helped me find this earlier, if only I had only known. The other tip I have is that I had absolutely none of the symptoms that I read were cancer. I just had a lump. So protect yourself and never, ever ignore anything new even if it is not “textbook”.

Well that was in August. Since then I have had four sessions of the first round of chemotherapy. Due to the size of my tumors and the type of cancer (triple negative, stage 3) I will need to undergo an aggressive treatment plan. I have opted to do my treatment in Sioux Falls vs. Rapid City due to the availability of a “team” of care that I cannot receive here. In November I start a new round of chemo for 12 weeks. So if you ever want to stop by and say hi. I welcome it. Col. Seten and Capt. Erickson have both been by for a visit.

I planned all along to continue to work after all “how hard could it be?” I thought. Well as it turns out – it is very hard. Some days are worse than others of course. I am still working, but I would not be without the help of our Wing Commander and Director of Finance who have both stepped in and taken over so many of the behind the scene items. They got a fast lesson in wing banking. In addition we are blessed to have the help of a former Wing Administrator who has returned. Some you may remember Mrs. Terrie Thurston. She ran the wing a long time ago, got married and left, but has returned and has already helped me clean off my desk and get my files organized, so between Terrie, Col. Seten, Capt. Sylvia Small and so many more that I fail to mention here, but who I name in my heart. I hope to keep things as seamless as possible. My e-mail still gets read and the payments still go out, I just need a little more time and patience for some things. In an effort to keep work as normal as possible and to keep family and friends aware I have created a blog you can follow and post on or just read; lots of pictures and a journal of sorts at
www.caring bridge.org/visit/rachelkuecker. In the photo (l-r) are Dan Kuecker, Rachel Kuecker and Terrie Thurston. Photo by Lt. Col. Gary Hewett

My prognosis is good with a long haul ahead, but I know that I have a great God, a wonderful family and an unequivocal extended family with all of you and I will fight and I will win. I have heard from other SD Wing members that they have had loved ones fight this beast. I welcome those stories as I am strong and positive and a fighter, some days it is just hard to find the strength. So please share (just not during work hours).

SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS

BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-58, BROOKINGS)
(Item submitted by C/Maj Tyler Gross)

- **CYBERPATRIOT-VIII:** The Air Force Association announced that the 2015-2016 CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Defense Competition has registered 3,379 teams representing all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, US Virgin Islands, Canada, and Department of Defense Dependent schools in Germany, the United Kingdom, Japan, and South Korea. This marks a 55% increase in team registrations from last season’s CyberPatriot-VII.

  Beginning with a practice round this month, the CyberPatriot-VIII teams will compete from their home locations in a series of online qualifying rounds that challenge them to find and fix security vulnerabilities in a variety of simulated networks. The top teams from the online rounds will travel all-expenses-paid to Baltimore, Md., for the CyberPatriot-VIII National Finals Competition April 10-14, 2016.

  The Big Sioux Composite Squadron (Brookings) will have one and possibly two teams competing in this year’s CyberPatriot-VIII competition. “Team Big Sioux” has enjoyed success at the national level in all four years that they have competed. Last year they placed second in the nation. In addition, they were the top CAP team in the competition. This year they compete against 1,280 teams in the All-Services Division, 447 of them CAP teams.

  Their Team Big Sioux roster will be completed by the 6 November deadline. This year’s team will be mentored by C/Lt Col Joshua Klosterman and coached by C/Maj Tyler Gross. The Team Captain is C/Lt Jaden Petersen. The squadron has been working with a group of students at Flandreau Indian School, who may participate as another team under our auspices if they join CAP.

CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068, CUSTER)
(Item and photos submitted by Capt. K. Bierwirth and Maj. David Small)

- **CIVIL AIR PATROL EXHIBIT:** At the request of the Custer County Courthouse Art Council we created a Civil Air Patrol exhibit at the Custer County Courthouse on 6 October. The exhibit will be on display until 4 January 2016. On the 6th there was a grand opening reception with about 30 people attending. Capt. Bierwirth gave a brief speech about CAP and its history and relation to the community. This was a great way for us to interact with the public. We had one person attend our next meeting and is interested in joining.

- **SPOOKY RECRUITING:** Since Halloween is upon us this gives us chances to hand out CAP information attached to each piece of candy we give out at our residences.
**WELCOME ABOARD/BACK ABOARD:** Welcoming to our newest cadet Robert Hewitt. Rejoining us is C/T Sgt Kyle Stiffarm. Welcome Robert and welcome back Kyle!

**RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-031, RAPID CITY)**

(Items and photos submitted Maj. Goodrich)

- **SURVIVAL TRAINING:** On 3 October, nine cadets and seniors Maj. Craig Goodrich and Capt. Ryan Jones went into the Black Hills to learn how to bivouac and for some survival training.

Unfortunately, it turned out to be a cold, rainy weekend, so instead of camping in Black Hills National Forest as planned, we asked for help from Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer. The commander, Capt. Kris Bierworth, gave us a warm, dry section of floor to sleep on.

The cadets learned land navigation skills, how to use a compass, how to start a fire (in the rain) and even got to practice some drill movements under the direction of C/SSgt Noah Misselt. Mostly they just had a good time getting to know each other while out for the weekend. All but one cadet joined our squadron just last month.

- **MICKELSON MARATHON SUPPORT:** On 4 October, the nine-cadet/two senior team packed up, and set up the aid station along the Mickelson Trail near Crazy Horse. Capt. Jones made great bacon, toast, and egg sandwiches for breakfast over a contained wood fire to get the day started. Over 1,000 runners took part in the race, and hundreds of folks expressed thanks for the water, power-aid, fruit and other things we handed out.

- **NEW SENIOR MEMBER:** Welcome to SM Sam Huntington. He transferred from Sioux Falls Composite Squadron and changed status from Patron Member to active Senior Member. We’re pleased you are with us.

- **NEW CADET:** Welcome Patience Sundstrom. We are pleased to have you with us.

- **WELCOME BACK:** We welcome Capt. T.J. Nicolai back to active status from the “Ghost” squadron. He has joined our squadron’s safety staff.
• **RECORD GROWTH**: Things are going very well at Rushmore Composite Squadron right now. Current membership is 52 members, the largest membership the squadron has had for more than a decade. In the last 12 months, senior membership has grown 31% and cadet membership has grown 67%.

**SIOUX FALLS COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-050, SIOUX FALLS)**
(Items and photo submitted by Capt. Jason Erickson)

• **MARATHON MAN**: Capt. Jason Erickson took part in the 34th Annual Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon held on 4 October. He completed the 26.2 mile run which began in Minneapolis and finished in St. Paul with a time of 4 Hours 28 Minutes 4 Seconds, a personal best, and 20 minutes faster than when he ran the marathon in 2013. This year, his third full marathon, Capt. Erickson finished 5,019th out of the 8,543 runners.

• **BEUCKENS FLIGHT SCHOLARSHIP**: Rosemary Beuckens and family visited us on 1 October. She has been a strong supporter of our cadet program for many years. Her son Brett was killed in a plane crash in 2010 and she started a memorial flight scholarship in his honor. The Beuckens family and friends have donated money for the past several years to further Sioux Falls Composite Squadron cadets’ aspirations to learn to fly. In recognition of their support Capt. Erickson presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation as a champion of Civil Air Patrol, our cadet program, and encourager of our young pilots to pursue their dreams. (L-R) Capt. Erickson, Francis Beuckens, Rosemary Beuckens and Wanda Beuckens.

• **SQUADRON OPEN HOUSE**: The squadron hosted an open house for the community on 10 October at the hangars northwest of Nelson Engineering. Around 50 visitors and family enjoyed a beautiful day at the hangar visiting with cadets and senior members and checking out our planes. The cadets also led tours of our nearby squadron headquarters. The nice weather stimulated appetites for the grilled burgers and dogs and side dishes. All-in-all it was a successful event with the potential to generate some new members.

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**★ ★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★ ★**

**Senior Member Promotions**

Congratulations to Kris Bierwirth of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer and to David Galluzzo of Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City on their promotion to the rank of Captain!
**Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions**

Congratulations to Julia Lair of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron in Sioux Falls and to Graham Dinnel of Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Chief Master Sergeant and receipt of the Dr. Robert H Goddard Award!

Congratulations to Kyle Kreger of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron in Sioux Falls on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Master Sergeant and receipt of the General Jimmy Doolittle Award!

Congratulations to Robert Boecker of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron in Sioux Falls on promotion to the rank of Cadet Master Sergeant and receipt of the Charles Lindbergh Award!

Congratulations to Taylor Umland-Moyer of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Technical Sergeant and receipt of the Captain Eddie Rickenbacker Award!

Congratulations to Tyler Eberle and Noah Misselt, both of Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City on promotion to the rank of Cadet Staff Sergeant and receipt of the Wright Brothers Award!

**Cadet Airman Promotions**

Congratulations to Andrew Sweebe of Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the General Hap Arnold Award!

Congratulations to Keithen Griffin, Amelia Jensen and Andrew Olsen, all of Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City, and to Ethan Updike of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer, on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman and receipt of the General J.F. Curry Award!

★★ KUDOS ★★

Captain Victoria Bierwirth of Custer, and member of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron, graduated *cum laude* from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology on 9 May with a Bachelor of Science degree in Geological Engineering with a minor in Geospatial Technology and a minor in German from Northern State University. She has accepted a job as a Geological Engineer with TriHydro; an environmental and engineering consulting firm in Jacksonville, Florida. She will continue to
interact with the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron for the near future. Once settled into her new job she will look for a flight instructor and a local squadron of the Florida Wing. We all will miss and wish her well.

Congratulations to Capt. Victoria Bierwirth of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer on earning “Senior” level in Specialty Track - Aerospace Education in CAP’s Senior Member Professional Development Program!

Congratulations to Cadet Lieutenants Bradley Blansett and Justin Harris, both of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron in Spearfish, who completed the requirements for certification as a Ground Team Leader!
SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE IN PIERRE: [By Maj. Craig Goodrich] On Saturday, 7 November the SD Wing conducted a Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) in Pierre, SD. The Project Officer, Maj. Nick Gengler created multiple scenarios for the aircrews and ground search teams to conduct electronic and visual searches, as well as airborne photography. That same morning we learned of a real-world missing person search going on in Pierre and around the state. The Pierre Police Department (PPD), leading the search, felt the resources that we offered wouldn’t be needed. However, we notified our aircrews and ground search teams to be on the lookout for a specific vehicle, and were given the description of the missing person. Coordination with the PDD and working with their data was a good exercise for the mission planning staff. Any time the Wing can coordinate with local law enforcement and emergency managers, even on small tasks, the relationship building, education and experience goes a long way.

Here’s a quick summary of the SAREX:
- 42 CAP personnel participated from across the wing
- 5 CAP aircraft and 5 CAP vans were a part of the mission
- We flew 16 sorties. Many of our aircrews were receiving training and received new qualifications
- We had 12 ground sorties
- We had two large ground search teams that received excellent Ground Team Training

Overall, a lot of people got a lot of great training on a beautiful November day in Pierre. It’s always fun to get together with our CAP brothers and sisters across the state, especially when we all work well together to accomplish an important goal! A big thanks also to Mustang FBO for the use of their great facilities.
PIERRE SAREX INCIDENT COMMAND POST STAFF IN ACTION

- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS**: SDWG flew 8 aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over five days in November in support of the state Department of Game, Fish & Parks and South Dakota State University. GF&P surveys deer, goats, mountain lions, and elk while SDSU surveys elk, bobcats and big horn sheep. The result was 22.3 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. The CAP pilot for the sorties was Lt. Col. Gary Hewitt. Depending on whom the sortie supported he was accompanied by one or more representatives from SDSU or from Game, Fish & Parks.

- **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**: Each year several squadrons of the South Dakota Wing take part in the annual Wreaths Across America program to honor our fallen veterans and to provide holiday decorations for veteran gravesites. Squadron members solicit subscriptions from individuals, families and businesses to purchase the wreaths and then participate in ceremonies across the state to pay tribute to our deceased veterans and place wreaths on their graves. This year members of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings will participate at the Greenwood Cemetery, the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron in Sioux Falls will participate at the Hills of Rest Cemetery, the Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City will participate at the Black Hills National Cemetery and the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer will take part in wreath laying ceremonies at the Hot Springs National Cemetery.

- **LIGHTSPEED FOUNDATION AWARD WINNERS**: by Amy Laboda - November 14, 2015, [Edited] Allan Schrader enjoys seeing good causes rewarded. Each year his company’s Lightspeed Foundation awards grants to causes that use aviation as a means to do good. This year’s winners were Pilot N Paws, The Ninety-Nines, Civil Air Patrol, New Tribes Mission Aviation and JAARS. The cash grants help the organizations fulfill their missions. This year two winners were rewarded for reaching out to the next generation of aviators, said Schrader, referring to the Civil Air Patrol and the Ninety-Nines.” A grant check for $6,000 was sent to NHQ.

• It gives me great pleasure to announce that on 6 November, Maj. E.W. Filler was appointed Commander of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings.

• Please also join me in congratulating Major E. W. Filler of Big Sioux Composite Squadron for meeting all FAA requirements for the grade of Commercial Pilot. This significant accomplishment enhances the professionalism of our pilot base and enhances our Wing’s mission capabilities going forward. A key aspect of Maj. Filler’s achievement is that he used a CAP aircraft and CAP instructor and in so doing demonstrated that it is possible to attain a commercial pilot rating using our own internal assets. Great work Maj. Filler!!

• Mark your calendars! The 2016 Wing Conference is set for 3-5 June at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel in Pierre. The tentative schedule is: Friday: 1900-2200 – Social Time. Saturday: 0800 to 1000 – General Session, Change of Wing Command, and Awards, 1000 to 1700 – Breakout Sessions, 1800 to 2100 – Banquet. Sunday: 0800 to 0900 – Commander’s Breakfast, 0900 to 1200 – Large Group Sessions.

• As part of the upcoming celebration of CAP’s 75th Anniversary, members authorized to wear CAP pilot or observer badges will be allowed to wear the WWII version of their badge. In a memo to CAP unit commanders, the national commander authorized the change effective from 1 December 2015 until 31 December 2016. Members choosing to wear the WWII badge will wear only one aviation badge. No other badges, military or CAP, will be worn in this position above the ribbons, including occupational badges with the exception of the Chaplain insignia. Members who aren’t pilots or observers can also observe the anniversary. Vanguard will offer the official CAP WWII lapel pin, which can be worn on the corporate blazer or out of CAP uniform by cadets and seniors. Cadets have always paid tribute to their WWII pioneers. The cadet enlisted cap device is the same design since 1942, although since 1984 the device is a metal pin rather than an embroidered patch.

• On 19 November, Maj. Kipp travelled to Flandreau where he met with six members of the former South Dakota Wing Civil Air Patrol Band. Most wing members probably don’t know that SDWG once had an official 97-member strong CAP marching band. Once research is completed, he will write a paper on the band and post it on the wing website in the Wing History section. Maj. Kipp has begun initial discussion on the possibility of creating a new SDWG Band forty-five years after the first one to take part in our 75th Anniversary activities.
Mark the calendar: Saturday, 6 February 2016 we will be holding a Squadron Leadership School (SLS) and a Corporate Learning Course (CLC) in Sioux Falls at squadron headquarters. I’ll send each squadron commander a list of their members that need these courses. I apologize that I did not get the SLS/CLC accomplished West River this fall. Retirement got busier than I thought it could. I will plan on doing one late spring in West River.

I am also planning for a Unit Commander’s Course in the near future. The UCC is for all member whether you ever plan on the commanders job or not! It includes pertinent information that benefits every senior member. Please send me an email if you would like to attend this course and what dates work best for you. When I get some feedback then I can start planning a time and place!

Lt. Col. Buechler and I are also trying to plan a Training Leaders of Cadets Course. I know some units are in need of this course since units must have a certain number of seniors that have completed the course. We will do our best to get these courses to those who need them!

Merry Christmas to all!! Enjoy this season with family and friends and STAY SAFE!

**SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS**

**BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-58, BROOKINGS)**
(Item submitted by C/Maj Tyler Gross)

- **CYBERPATRIOT-VIII**: The squadron is participating in this year’s CyberPatriot, the premier National Youth Cyber Defense Competition. “Team Big Sioux” has enjoyed success at the national level in all four years that we have competed. Last year we placed second in the nation and were the top CAP team in the competition.

  This year we will field two teams in CyberPatriot-VIII’s All-Services Division. They will compete against 1,280 teams, 447 of them CAP teams. The All-Services Division consists of teams from the Civil Air Patrol, Naval Sea Cadet Corps, and Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps Junior ROTC.

  CyberPatriot teams compete from their home locations in a series of online qualifying rounds that challenge them to find and fix security vulnerabilities in a variety of simulated networks. This year’s Round One took place on 14 November. Teams race against the clock - those who successfully finish with the fastest time advance to the next Round. Round Two will take place 4-6 December. The top teams from the online rounds receive all-expenses-paid to Baltimore, Md., for the National Finals Competition 10-14 April 2016.

  Big Sioux’s Team-1 members are: C/Lt. Jaden Petersen of Brookings, SD (Team Captain), C/CMSgt. Graham Dinnel of Lake Benton, MN, C/MSgt. Andrew Toft of Elkton, SD, C/A1C Andrew Sweebe of Brookings, SD, C/Amn Peter Engels of Minneota, MN and Byron Hawk Bear of Flandreau, SD (Alternate).
Big Sioux’s Team-2 members are: Justin Rhoades (Team Captain), Zandria Ramon, Ruben Taken Alive, Jaden Parker, Arnold Parker and Reyanna Uses Many (Alternate), all reside in Flandreau, all attend Flandreau High School and all will soon to become cadets in the Big Sioux Composite Squadron.

Both teams will be mentored by C/Lt. Col. Joshua Klosterman and coached by C/Maj. Tyler Gross, both veteran CyberPatriot competitors.

- **NATIONAL CADET COMPETITION**: As Lt. Col. Buechler announced in her Cadet Programs part in last month’s Skychaser, we have been selected as one of two teams from the North Central Region to compete in the National Cadet Competition (NCC) from 29 Dec 15 to 2 Jan 16 at CAP NHQ at Maxwell AFB, Ala. The NCC, an annual program to evaluate CAP’s best drill teams and color guards, encompasses the National Drill Team Competition and National Color Guard Competition. Teams from across the U.S. will compete for the Air Force Chief of Staff Sweepstakes Trophy and other top awards.

- **VETERANS DAY**: We provided a Color Guard for the local chapter of the VFW on Veterans Day.

### CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068, CUSTER)
(Items submitted by Capt. K. Bierwirth, photos by Capt. K. Bierwirth and Maj. Small)

- **CIVIL AIR PATROL EXHIBIT**: At the request of the Custer County Courthouse Art Council we created a Civil Air Patrol exhibit at the Custer County Courthouse on 6 October. The exhibit will be on display until 4 January 2016. There was a grand opening reception with about 30 people attending. Capt. Bierwirth gave a brief speech about CAP and its history and relation to the community. The photos, taken by Maj. David Small, were inadvertently omitted from last month’s Skychaser.
**VETERANS DAY COLOR GUARD:** The squadron provided a Color Guard for Veterans Day ceremonies held at the Custer High School. Our cadets looked sharp, performed superbly and were a very positive example of all that Civil Air Patrol stands for.

- **ANNIE:** C/Lt. Jason Parry played Daddy Warbucks in Custer High School’s production of Annie.
• **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**: We have been busy seeking donations for the Wreaths Across America program. We will conduct a wreath laying ceremony at Hot Springs National Cemetery on 12 December.

![Wreath Laying Ceremony](image)

**LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-063, SPEARFISH)**
(Items submitted by C/T Sgt. Peter Iverson and Maj. Small)

• **GREAT START**: Ten members turned out for a Cadet Great Start program on 21 November at Spearfish under the supervision of Maj Bill Collister. After completing Great Start the new cadets worked on their GES qualification to prepare to become ground team members. All profited from the day's program before enjoying lunch at Pizza Ranch.

![Cadet Great Start](image)

• **GROUND SEARCH TEAM QUALS**: The squadron has begun a push to get all Ground Search Team cadet members to upgrade their qualifications to the GTM1 level. On 21 November, seasoned cadets, worked with Maj. David Small and new Senior Member Cyndy Collister on ground team quals. The squadron takes great pride in the high degree of skill and professionalism of its Ground Search Teams, a critical component of SDWG’s Emergency Services support to local law enforcement and first responders in the rugged Black Hills area.

![Ground Search Training](image)

• **WINTER SURVIVAL TRAINING**: We are planning a squadron-level winter survival training course some time in the coming months. When, will largely depend on actually getting winter weather this winter.

**PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-038, PIERRE)**
(Items and photos submitted by Lt. Col. Gatje)

• **PIERRE CONDUCTS EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING**: Emergency Services Training for cadets and seniors took place at an area near the Pierre Airport in October. Terrain there varies from level to hilly and has several types of cover material. Lt. Col. Myra Christensen, Lt. Col. Tam Gatje, C/SMSGt Jonathan Gregory and C/Sr A Cordell Hall took turns searching for and finding a practice emergency locator beacon. Two types of hand-held radio-direction-finding (RDF) equipment we have available for a ground search for a missing aircraft were used. Training included an explanation of search operations in the field, followed by hands-on operation of the equipment by each person. A discussion of the equipment and operation followed to give more information.

![Emergency Services Training](image)
Each member operated the equipment and successfully tracked and ultimately found the target.

- **WELCOME ABOARD**: The squadron recently recruited two new cadets. We are glad that you chose to join CAP and are pleased to have you in our squadron. Welcome Aboard!

**RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-031, RAPID CITY)**
(Item submitted by Maj. Goodrich, screen capture by Maj. Kipp)

- **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**: The squadron has been working hard to sell as many wreaths as we can. We’ve set up a table for wreath sponsorship sales at the Family Thrift Center, the Rushmore Mall, Sam’s Club, and at the Rush Hockey Game. We’ve also helped out the Rush Foundation by selling 50/50 raffle tickets for them at Rush Hockey games. We hope to get a donation from the foundation for our help. We will be placing wreaths on veterans’ graves at Black Hills National Cemetery on 12 December.

**SIOUX FALLS COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-050, SIOUX FALLS)**
(Items and photo submitted by Capt. West)

- **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**: In keeping with past practice the squadron will participate in the Wreaths Across America ceremony to be held at the Hills of Rest Cemetery in Sioux Falls on 12 December. Our participation usually consists of a cadet Color Guard, uniformed supernumerary personnel to assist with the ceremony and wreath placement and Lt. Col. Tim Steppan who performs the “taps” bugle call.
• **USMC BOUND**: One of our former cadets, Eric Menholt, currently attending the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis has been notified that on graduation he will go into the Marine Corps with an aviation contract for pilot training. Semper Fi Eric! And best wishes for success in your military service.

• **VETERANS DAY**: The squadron provided a Color Guard for the Veterans Day ceremony at Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls.

• **PARADE OF LIGHTS**: Twenty-One South Dakota Wing members provided crowd control for Sioux Falls’ 24th Parade of Lights on 27 November. The annual parade with dazzling lighted holiday floats, music, dancers and Santa is the official start to the downtown holiday season. CAP’s contingent was made up of 11 cadets and one Senior from Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, seven cadets and one Senior from Big Sioux Composite Squadron, and even one Senior from Rushmore Composite Squadron. The horde of always-hungry cadets were treated to pizza beforehand and then patrolled the parade’s line of march down Philips Avenue keeping people, especially little parade goers, out of harm’s way. Photo credit – Elisha Page/Argus Leader.

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**Senior Member Promotions**

Congratulations to Tyler Cavin of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron in Sioux Falls on his promotion to the rank of Captain!
Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions

Congratulations to Thomas Dillon of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Chief Master Sergeant and receipt of the Dr. Robert H Goddard Award!

Congratulations to Christopher Schuppan of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron in Sioux Falls on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Staff Sergeant and receipt of the Wright Brothers Award!

Cadet Airman Promotions

Congratulations to Patience Sundstrom of the Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City on her promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman and receipt of the General J.F. Curry Award!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Senior Master Sergeant Richard W. Larson retired from active duty with the South Dakota Air National Guard on 1 October 2015 after 34 years of military service. He began his service career in 1981 when he attended Air Force Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Base at San Antonio, Texas. Since that time he has served in the Air Force, Army Reserve, Army National Guard and Air National Guard. He has served in a wide variety of military jobs, from Weapons Technician working on F-4 Phantom Jets, to Army trombone player, Army Public/Civil Affairs Broadcast NCO, to a Disaster Preparedness Chemical Warfare instructor.

At the time of his retirement, SMSgt Larson was Superintendent of the South Dakota Air National Guard 114th Civil Engineer Squadron (CES) Emergency Management/Readiness Flight, and Emergency Manager for the 114th Fighter Wing at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls. He also served as Unit Deployment Manager for the 114th CES organization, ensuring on time worldwide force projection. Special Duty assignments have included tours as a deployed First Sergeant in Canada, in Southwest Asia as Expeditionary First Sergeant during Operation Desert Fox in Kuwait, and as one of three USAF Deployed Functional Managers, guiding theater wide Chemical-Biological Defense operations, leading over 500 personnel at 22 locations during the initial major combat portion of Operation Iraqi Freedom / Enduring Freedom. He is a credentialed South Dakota Certified Emergency Manager, having responded to a variety of real world contingencies.

You probably know SMSgt Larson better as Lieutenant Colonel Rick Larson, Vice Commander of the South Dakota Wing of the Civil Air Patrol. His CAP involvement started in 1976 as a cadet member of the North Dakota Wing’s Fargo-Moorhead Cadet Squadron, earning the General Billy Mitchell Award. He earned his FAA Private Pilot License in 1980 and has over 600 hours in a variety of aircraft. From 1985 to 1995, Larson served in a variety of positions in Minnesota’s Mankato and Pipestone Composite Squadrons and on South Dakota Wing Staff. From 2005-2009, he served as Commander of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron. Lt. Col. Larson is also a CAP Incident Commander and Search and Rescue / Disaster Relief Pilot and aircrew member. He was named “2004
Cadet Mentor of the Year” by USAF, 2005 “Senior Member of the Year” for 2005 by South Dakota Wing, Commander, 2005 “Squadron of the Year” and honored as 2006 “Military Reservist of the Year” by the Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.


Rick and his wife, Izzie, live in Sioux Falls. At his retirement dinner in September 2015, SMSgt Kevin Scanlin, representing Headquarters, Air National Guard, presented the ANG Emergency Management "Order of the Dragon" award to SMSgt Larson for his dedication to and excellence in Emergency Management. He is just the 15th recipient of the prestigious Order since its inception.

To access the December 2015 Wing Calendar go to:
http://sdcap.us/calendar-2/action~month/exact_date~1448949600/request_format~html/

To access the January 2016 Wing Calendar go to:
http://sdcap.us/calendar-2/action~month/exact_date~1451628000/request_format~html/
CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL: South Dakota U.S. Sen. John Thune led a ceremony to honor a lifelong Sioux Falls resident who was awarded a Civil Air Patrol Congressional Gold Medal posthumously for service during World War II. The event on 21 December honored Walter Wilson. His widow, Shirley Wilson, accepted the medal on her husband's behalf.

Wilson was a CAP cadet in training when World War II ended. He was trained in recognizing aircraft, the dynamics of flight and Morse code, in addition to other skills. Shirley Wilson said while her husband didn't speak much about his time in the Civil Air Patrol. "He'd be very pleased." Wilson's sister, son and daughter-in-law, along with representatives from the Civil Air Patrol, looked on during the ceremony.
• **IMPORTANT - ACTION REQUIRED: FAA UAS REGISTRATION**: As many of you are aware, in the last few days the FAA has released requirements to register recreational/hobby UASes that weigh more than .55 pounds (approx. 9 oz.) starting next week. These requirements apply to our CAP resources including the model airplanes and copters provided through the STEM program as well as any UAS that our CAP units have received or procured through other means. CAP NHQ will accomplish this registration for all CAP owned resources. DO NOT INDIVIDUALLY REGISTER THEM YOURSELVES. If you have already done so, please contact me via email immediately. Below is our path forward:

First, we must register all of the units we have fielded for educational purposes. Dr. Jeff Montgomery is providing my staff the information on the STEM kit UASes fielded by his office. If your unit owns a model airplane, copter or other system that could be considered a UAS (see [http://www.faa.gov/uas/registration/faqs/](http://www.faa.gov/uas/registration/faqs/)) that was NOT provided as part of a STEM kit that you are using for educational purposes, please have your unit POCs email my administrative assistant, LaShonda Frazier ([lfrazier@capnhq.gov](mailto:lfrazier@capnhq.gov)) with the make and model of the system, the unit charter number it is assigned to, and the email address and CAPID of the POC for the system by COB on 21 Dec; we will gladly accept emails from one wing POC if you have someone already coordinating these issues, but because of the short time frame if individual units need to send answers direct, that is ok. Once we have accomplished our bulk registration next week, we will email the certificate to the POCs collected above, CAP units that have received STEM kits, commanders and key staff personnel, and also make it available online for future use and download. After 20 Dec, the FAA is requiring that we mark each educational UAS with our unique bulk registration number before we operate the units outdoors, and when flying these UAS outdoors the operators must be able to present the certificate in either print or electronic format if asked for proof of registration.

Second, we must individually register UASes that will be used for operational mission purposes like imagery collection for disaster relief, search and rescue, etc and expect we will also have to provide details to our insurance carrier as well. We do not have any approved UASes for operational mission use yet, but I know some of you have either already received units from your state counterparts or other means with that intention, will soon, or would like to dual purpose the STEM kits above. The online process for us to register UASes for this purpose with the FAA is expected to be available sometime after the new year, and my office will register those units as well. We will need more information in order to register those units and will put out more detailed guidance on that after the new year. Until otherwise registered and approved, do not fly UASes for operational mission purposes on behalf of CAP. If any of your units have a UAS already or are expected to receive one any time soon that they intend to use for operational missions, please also have the unitâ€™s UAS POC contact LaShonda via email (see above) so that we can work together to chart a path ahead. I intend to host a conference call or webinar that we will announce the first week of January. For now, do not plan to re-purpose STEM kits for operational mission use immediately; NHQ will develop guidance for how we can do so legally and effectively in the coming months.

Last, because of the above registration issues and the insurance and liability associated with them, we will need to track all model aircraft, copters, and other types of UASes that CAP owns across the country. Expect more guidance on this after the New Year once tools have been put in place to do so.

Sent by: John W. Desmarais, Sr., HQ CAP Dir. of Ops, (O) 877.227.9142 ext. 301, (O) 334.953.7748 ext. 301, (DSN) 493.7748 ext. 301

**FOR THOSE WHO OWN A PERSONAL UAV:**
The FAA has put new regulations in place effective 21 December 2015; anyone owning a small unmanned aircraft (model airplane, model helicopter, or drone) is required to register with the FAA. Failure to register could result in civil and criminal penalties. Go to [http://www.faa.gov/uas/registration](http://www.faa.gov/uas/registration) to register.
The owner must be:
- 13 years of age or older. If the owner is less than 13 years of age, a person 13 years of age or older must register the UAS.
- A U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident.

Owners must register their USA (model aircraft, model helicopters, drones) online if it weighs more than 0.55 pounds (250 grams/about 9 ounces) and less than 55 pounds.

Registration takes about 5 minutes. You will receive a registration number which must be written on the aircraft either with a marker or a label. You will also receive a certificate with your name and registration number on it. There is no limit to the number of aircraft you can have under your registration number. So, even if you do not own a UAS now, you can still register and save your registration number for later.

If you register before 20 January 2016, the FAA will refund your $5 registration fee. Registrations are valid for 3 years. After three years you will have to re-register and pay the 45 fee.

- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS**: SDWG flew eight aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over eight days in December in support of the state Department of Game, Fish & Parks and South Dakota State University. GF&P surveys deer, goats, mountain lions, and elk while SDSU surveys elk, bobcats and big horn sheep. The result was 26 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills. The CAP pilots for the sorties were: Lt. Col. Gary Hewitt, three sorties; Maj. Craig Goodrich, one sortie; Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese, one sortie; Lt. Col. Albert Trumble, three sorties. Depending on whom the sortie supported they were accompanied by a representative from SDSU or from Game, Fish & Parks.

### STAFF NOTES

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**WING HISTORIAN**

Maj. Todd Epp, CAP

For those interested in the history of the CAP Cadet Program since its inception in October 1942 here is an interesting, unofficial website on that topic. It has information, photos and research on CAP uniforms through the years: [http://caphistoryproject.org/Home.php](http://caphistoryproject.org/Home.php)

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**WING DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS**

Maj. Nick Gengler, CAP

Please join me in congratulating and welcoming our new Wing Emergency Services Officer, Lt. Col. Myra Christensen. Myra has over 30 years of CAP experience and has accomplished several ES qualifications from Ground Team Leader to Mission Pilot. As ES Officer she will be working closely with the squadrons on their ES training and the SAREXs. Welcome aboard!
The timeline for National Cadet Special Activities has been pushed back 2-3 weeks. This is the new timeline.

1. **NCSA Announcement** - Applications for National Cadet Special Activities have traditionally opened on 15 December. This year that timeline is being adjusted slightly. All NCSAs will be announced on [www.ncsas.com](http://www.ncsas.com) by Saturday 9 January.

2. **Application Window** - Cadets and senior staff will have from 9 January (or earlier) through 31 January to apply for “primary” status. As always, the application process remains open through summer, but latecomers who apply after 31 January will be applying for “alternate” status.

3. **Approvals Window** - Traditionally, wings have had until mid-February to “green light,” approve, or “red line” their applicants. That deadline is being extended to 1 March.

4. **Slotting Deadline** - NHQ will slot cadets into the activities by 1 April, roughly two weeks later than the traditional timeline.

For more information go to: [http://capmembers.bmetrack.com/c/v?e=886B64&c=2B380&t=0&l=D66EE60&email=iYWCh9yX8mfnxetT8ynj9v%2Bqx5UA1uhs](http://capmembers.bmetrack.com/c/v?e=886B64&c=2B380&t=0&l=D66EE60&email=iYWCh9yX8mfnxetT8ynj9v%2Bqx5UA1uhs)

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**BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-58, BROOKINGS)**

(Item submitted by Lt. Hartelt)

- **CYBERPATRIOT-VIII:** The squadron is participating in CyberPatriot, the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition. We are competing in CyberPatriot-VIII’s All-Services Division against 1,280 teams, 447 of them CAP teams. The All-Services Division consists of teams from the Civil Air Patrol, Naval Sea Cadet Corps, and Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps Junior ROTC.

CyberPatriot teams compete from their home locations in a series of online qualifying rounds that challenge them to find and fix security vulnerabilities in a variety of simulated networks. This year’s Round Two took place on 6 December. Teams race against the clock - those who successfully finish with the fastest time advance to the next Round. Round 3, the state round, will take place on 31 January 2016. Team Big Sioux’s members are: C/Lt. Jaden Petersen (Brookings) (Team Captain), C/CMSgt. Graham Dinnel (Lake Benton, MN), C/MSgt. Andrew Toft (Elkton), C/A1C Andrew Sweebe (Brookings) and C/Amn Peter Engels (Minneota, MN).
• **NATIONAL CADET COMPETITION:** Ninety-six cadets from across America gathered at Maxwell AFB in Alabama from 30 December to 2 January for the 2015 National Cadet Competition (NCC), an annual event that began in 1947. The competition was held in front of guests that included senior USAF and CAP personnel.

The team of cadets from the Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings consisted of: Cadet Lieutenant Christopher Dinnel and Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Graham Dinnel from Lake Benton, MN; Cadet Lieutenant Jaden Petersen and Cadet Airman First Class Andrew Sweebe from Brookings; and Cadet Master Sgt. Andrew Toft of Elkton, SD. They are joined by Cadet Lieutenant Jaden Roblewsky from Sioux Falls Composite Squadron in Sioux Falls. They were supervised by Lieutenant Josh Hartelt of Brookings, a member of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron and Maj Nicholas Gengler of Beresford, of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron.

The cadets, in six-member teams, demonstrated skills that included indoor and outdoor color guard challenges, a written test of leadership and aerospace knowledge, a Jeopardy!-style CAP knowledge game, physical fitness test, an obstacle course-like fitness challenge, public speaking, model rocketry, team leadership problems (group problem solving challenges) and a uniform inspection.

The winning cadet team took home the Air Force Chief of Staff Sweepstakes Award Trophy. Second- and third-place team trophies were also presented, as were individual awards for cadets competing in several categories, including top written score and fastest mile-run time.

• **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA:** The squadron's Wreaths Across America ceremony took place at the Brookings Greenwood Cemetery with members from the Brookings VFW George Dokken Post #2118 present and participating in the ceremonial wreath laying. Cadet Major Gross presented the speech while our color guard presented the colors. The ceremony was done very professionally. Brookings community members who attended complimented our cadets and assisted in laying some of the wreaths. Photos by Ms. Wanda Mix, VFW.

**CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068, CUSTER)**
*(Items submitted by Capt. Bierwirth)*

• **PARADE OF LIGHTS:** The squadron entered a float in the 24th Annual Custer Christmas Parade on 5 December. This annual parade of lights signals the kick-off of the holiday season in the Southern Black Hills. After the parade, Santa and Mrs. Claus appeared at Way Park for the Memorial Tree Lighting Ceremony. The Crazy Horse Composite Squadron’s float represented a Civil Air Patrol plane conducting a simulated search and rescue mission. Our eco-friendly aircraft was made of recycled white coolers.
• **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**: The Crazy Horse Composite Squadron along with the Battle Mountain American Legion Post #71 from Hot Springs conducted the Wreaths Across America Ceremony at the Hot Springs National Cemetery at Hot Springs, SD.

![Image of Wreaths Across America ceremony]

C/AC HUNTER RICE, C/AMN ETHAN UPDIKE, C/SRA ANTHONY DILLON, C/TSGT KYLE STIFFARM, LT. COL. DENNIS CORNELL, C/LT JASON PARRY, C/CMSGT THOMAS DILLON

• **GUEST SPEAKER**: We had a guest speaker. Author J.E. "Scotty" Terrall, who writes western short stories and novels, romance novels and mystery/suspense/thriller series and is currently writing his 26th book, spoke to us about the importance of writing skills. He emphasized that the two most important books you need are a good quality dictionary and a thesaurus. He told us that when writing an email we should read and reread what we have written at least three times. He also suggested we read the email out loud before we press “send”! He warned us not to rely solely on spell check as a word may be spelled correctly but the automatic system does not differentiate between homonyms such as “wear” and “where.” It was very interesting and informative talk.

![Image of guest speaker]

• **WHITE ELEPHANT**: The squadron held Christmas pot luck where family and friends gathered for a wonderful meal. Holiday spirits were high, smiles and laughter were everywhere. We then held a “white elephant” gift swap with many interesting and unusual items exchanged.

![Image of white elephant]

**PIERRE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-038, PIERRE)**

(Item submitted by Lt. Col. Gatje)

• **CADET RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP**: C/SMSgt Hannah Becker of Pierre has received the Distinguished Young Women of South Dakota scholarship for next year. She is a senior at Pierre’s Riggs High School. She will advance to the national program in Mobile, Alabama where they give a total of $150,000 in cash tuition scholarships. The program is part of a national scholarship program that promotes and rewards scholarship, leadership and talent in young women. The program is open only to seniors in high school. In the photo C/SMSgt Becker is at the controls of a CAP aircraft while taking part in the Mankato Flight Academy held last July.
RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-031, RAPID CITY)
(Item submitted by Maj. Goodrich, photos by Maj. Goodrich)

- WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA: Seniors and cadets from the squadron participated in the Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Black Hills National Cemetery near Sturgis, SD. In the left photo the squadron contingent. In the right photo a cadet honoring a veteran.

- WELCOME ABOARD: Welcome to new members to the Rushmore Composite Squadron. We welcome Cadet Erik Allen, and to SM Zachary J Erickson (a student at the School of Mines), SM Blake Griffin (Cadet Blake Griffin’s dad who has decided to become more involved and help out), and SM Steven V Helgeland (Cadet Mason Helgeland’s dad who has decided to become more involved and help out). We are pleased to have you as members of our squadron.

- WELCOME BACK: Lt Michel Johnson will be coming back to the Rushmore Squadron! This is exciting news for us. He brings a level of excitement and leadership upon which our cadets will thrive. Lt Johnson is an active duty USAF NCO at Ellsworth AFB.

SIoux Falls Composite Squadron (SD-050, Sioux Falls)
(Items and photo submitted by Capt. West)

- NEW SQUADRON AE OFFICER: We would like to introduce our new Aerospace Education (AE) officer, 1st Lt. Andrew Moline. Andrew and his son, Max, joined our squadron a few months ago from the Northeast Missouri squadron. The Moline family moved from Missouri to Sioux Center, Iowa in August, and now travel three hours round trip to attend meetings with Sioux Falls on Thursday nights.

Andrew comes to us with a great deal of experience in safety, Drug Demand Reduction, cadet programs, and training. When asked how he became interested in the AE program Andrew stated, "It didn't take long after joining CAP before I became aware of the proud history of aerospace education CAP has to offer young people. While perusing an old rocketry package with my son, my background in engineering and personal interest in 20th century history was piqued.”

Andrew took the rocketry program to the limits in his former squadron. The cadets there earned their rocketry badges, he got the STEM program going, and he traveled with cadets to wing activities to help facilitate their AE experience. Andrew's goal, along with that of the cadet AE leadership, is to take Sioux Falls to the same place in the AE program. They hope to start the cadets off with rockets, then move on to radio controlled aircraft. SFCS is very lucky to have new members willing to offer not only their expertise, but also their time in order to provide cadets with the opportunity to learn, lead, and pursue excellence. Welcome 1st Lt. Andrew Moline and C/MSgt. Max Moline.
WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA: Seniors and cadets from the squadron participated in the Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Hills of Rest Memorial Park in Sioux Falls on 12 December. Lt. Col. Tim Steppan acted as Master of Ceremonies and later blew taps. The squadron Color Guard performed and senior members represented the uniformed services in the ceremony honoring all service members. Later assistance was provided to organizations laying wreaths on veterans’ graves.

Senior Member Promotions

Congratulations Samuel Huntington of Rushmore Composite Squadron! By virtue of earning the Earhart Award as a Cadet he has been promoted directly from Senior Member to First Lieutenant.
Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions

Congratulations to Robert Boecker of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Master Sergeant and receipt of the General Jimmy Doolittle Award!

Congratulations to Taylor Umland-Moyer of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on promotion to the rank of Cadet Master Sergeant and receipt of the Charles Lindbergh Award!

Congratulations to Tyler Eberle of Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Technical Sergeant and receipt of the Captain Eddie Rickenbacker Award!

Cadet Airman Promotion

Congratulations to Hunter Rice of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Airman and receipt of the Mary Feik Award!

Be sure to check the calendar on the Wing Website for any changes and updates.
In This Issue . . .

CAP Congressional Gold Medal 3

Commander’s Corner 7

CyberPatriot-VII 8

Professional Development Courses in Custer 9

Flying In or Near a Thunderstorm 11

How to Request Use of the Civil Air Patrol 15

Cadet Orientation Rides 16

November Joint REDCAP 19

Shades of Blue 21

Studying Mandarin in China 24

Operation Windmill 27

Inspections...UGGH! 29

SDWG Pilot Earns South Dakota Aviation Award 31

South Dakota Wing’s Newest Lieutenant Colonels 32

COVER PHOTO: SDWG’s Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron’s ground team moves up the side of a finger butte near Alzada, MT during a tri-state REDCAP on 30 November. The crash site is behind the knob at the center of the photo. A SDWG aircraft from Rapid City orbits overhead.
On 10 December, at a ceremony in Statuary Hall at the U.S. Capitol a Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) was presented to collectively honor World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol whose valor and dedication during the war helped thwart the enemy submarine attacks against our vital shipping lines, saved lives, secured our nation’s borders, conducted missions to support the war effort, and helped train members of the armed forces.

Presided over by House Speaker Boehner, Senate Majority Leader Reid, Senate Republican Leader McConnell, and House Democratic Leader Pelosi, the CGM was accepted by Col. Lester Wolff, a WWII CAP subchaser and former U.S. representative from New York and by CAP National Commander Maj. Gen. Joe Vazquez. The gold medal will be placed on permanent display in the Smithsonian Institution.

Later that evening at a gala dinner celebration was held for surviving veterans, families of
deceased members, CAP members and distinguished guests in nearby Crystal City. Maj. Gen. Vazquez personally presented a bronze replica medal to each CAP WWII veteran or to a member of the family of a deceased veteran.

South Dakota has four who will receive the bronze replica medal; Mrs. Sylvia Henkin, a resident of Sioux Falls, and three deceased individuals – Luverne “Vern” Kraemer, Vernon Jeffries, and Earl Wilkinson. Mrs. Henkin and a member of Jeffries and Wilkinson families will receive the bronze replica medal at ceremonies to be held in South Dakota. Mrs. Norma Kraemer, widow of Vern Kraemer, travelled to Washington, D.C. for the ceremony and was presented her husband’s bronze replica medal by Gen. Vazquez.

The CGM was accepted by Col. Lester Wolff, a WWII CAP subchaser and former U.S. representative from New York, and by CAP National Commander Maj. Gen. Joe Vazquez.
Over the past few months we’ve been busy in the South Dakota Wing. We ranked the highest in the North Central Region for aircraft utilization for FY 14 and finished well above the national average for hours flown in FY 14. We were able to use nearly all of our allocated funding for Cadet Orientation flights in FY14 and we are expecting an increase for FY15 Orientation Ride funding so we can look forward to getting even more cadets in the air. This is a valuable program and we need to continue to support it going forward.

Since 1 October, the wing has been tasked with flying in support of a Radar Site test mission, two missing person searches, a missing aircraft search and an electronic beacon search which has resulted in one “find” credit awarded to the SD Wing. We’ve shown our ability to reach out to surrounding wings as we worked with the North Dakota Wing on one of the searches and the Wyoming Wing on another. Just this past weekend we were called upon by Lawrence County to assist in a missing person search near Spearfish, SD. We’re happy to say that the missing person was found and was in good health. Great job to all that assisted with these search missions.

We continue to assist the State of South Dakota with aerial animal tracking missions and flew 288 hours in support of this mission in FY14. So far in FY15 we’ve flown nearly 70 hours in support of the animal mission. Thanks to all that assist with this mission with a special thanks to Lt. Col. Gary Hewett for stepping up and being the lead on this mission. Lt. Col. Hewett has made himself available and logged 246 hours flying Civil Air Patrol aircraft in FY14 with the bulk of those hours in support of the animal tracking mission. That’s what I call dedication!

Our cadets were hard at work in 2014 as they attended many National Cadet Special Activities; some of which were Blue Beret, flight academies across the country and also CyberPatriot where the Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings was the top Civil Air Patrol team in the nation. Great job to Big Sioux on that accomplishment. I know they are working hard to get to the national competition again this year. I’ve received many applications for NCSAs for FY15 and we’ll have a number of our cadets participating across the country.

By the time you read this article we’ll have been at our state capitol for our annual legislative day where we will actively recruit more legislative members to our Legislative Squadron and to thank all of them for their support of our organization. I’ll also have attended the Command Council meeting in Washington D.C. where I’ll meet with the South Dakota legislative delegation to inform them of our activities and accomplishments and thank them for their support of the Civil Air Patrol.

We’ve have a really special group of people in the South Dakota Wing and I’m honored to say that I am a member of our great organization.
The Big Sioux Composite Squadron’s cyber-security team placed sixth overall in the All Services Division and second among CAP teams in the third round (state) of the Cyber Patriot-VII competition that was held from 5-7 December. The squadron’s crew of ace cybersecurity sleuths now goes to the fourth round (regionals).

CyberPatriot is a unique educational competition that challenges high school students to resolve real-life cybersecurity situations faced by industry professionals. Created in 2009 by the Air Force Association, the CyberPatriot competition provides students with hands-on learning about securing computer networks while educating, and motivating them toward careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, disciplines critical to the nation’s future.

The 2014 Big Sioux Composite Squadron CyberPatriot team consists of Cadet Major Joshua Klosterman (Team Captain), Cadet Lieutenant Chris Dinnel, Cadet Senior Master Sergeant Jaden Petersen, Cadet Staff Sergeant Nathaniel Fleet, and Cadet Lieutenant Laura Rudnik. They are being coached by Capt. Shannon Hofer and mentored by Cadet Captain Tyler Gross.

Civil Air Patrol competes in the “All Services Division” which consists of teams from Army, Air Force and Marine Corps Junior ROTC units, the Naval Sea Cadet Corps, and CAP. Only the top two teams in each category of the All Services Division go to the national finals to be held in Maryland in March.

During the online qualification rounds the Big Sioux team faced realistic computer network threats at their home location seeking out weaknesses in simulated online networks and working to defend those networks from threat scenarios. A Cisco networking challenge was also a part of the competition. The team was scored according to how quickly and effectively they established and maintained the secure networks. In the regionals the team will be faced with similar but more complex and sophisticated online computer network threats.

If the Big Sioux team succeeds in the regional round they advance to the National Finals, the only in-person round. In the finals the team will compete to defend virtual networks and mobile devices from a professional aggressor team. The National
**CyberPatriot-VII Continued . . .**

Finalists also face-off in three additional competition components: Digital Cyber Crime Scene Challenge, Cisco Networking Challenge, and Digital Forensics Challenge. These extra challenges broaden the cybersecurity experience and expose teams to new elements of the many career opportunities available to them.

In last year’s CyberPatriot-VI competition the Big Sioux cyber-security team made it all the way to the national finals that were held in Maryland. They placed seventh overall, no mean achievement considering there were 864 teams competing in the All-Service Division. However, they won first place among the 320 Civil Air Patrol teams competing. In recognition of this achievement the Air Force Association presented the team with the CAP Champion Award.

The Air Force Association (AFA), the sponsoring organization, is a non-profit, independent, professional military and aerospace education association. Its mission is to promote a dominant United States Air Force and a strong national defense, and to honor Airmen and our Air Force Heritage. AFA has 200 chapters nationally and internationally representing more than 100,000 members. Visit AFA at www.afa.org.

The annual CyberPatriot competition greatly benefits from the support and technical expertise of its presenting sponsor, the Northrop Grumman Foundation. Other sponsors include Cyber Diamond Sponsors, AT&T Federal, Cisco, Microsoft, Raytheon, USA Today, the Department of Homeland Security, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Cyber Gold Sponsors URS, Splunk, Symantec Corporation, Cyber Silver Sponsors Air Force Research Laboratory, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Leidos, MIT’s Lincoln Laboratory, and University College of the University of Maryland. For more information about CyberPatriot, go to www.uscyberpatriot.org. 

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**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES IN CUSTER**

*By Col. Mary Donley, CAP*  
*Wing Professional Development Officer*

In October 2014, the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer hosted the CAP Squadron Leadership School (SLS) and the Corporate Learning Course (CLC) for members of North and South Dakota Wings. Maj. Sharon Moad of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron directed the SLS for Lt. Ruth Carley of the Pierre Composite Squadron and Graham Frost, Daniel Villas and Ashley Ehret of the North Dakota Wing’s 119th Fargo Cadet Squadron. The SLS is part of the Level II of CAP’s Senior Member Professional Development Program. It focuses on training members at the squadron level on subjects such as leadership, personal communication, professionalism and the administrative and operational workings of a squadron. All senior members need this course to complete Level II and be eligible for promotion and awards.

Col. Mary Donley, SDWG Professional Development Officer, directed the CLC with the help of former Wing Commander Col. Mike Beason who taught some of the modules. The CLC was attended by 1st Lt. Kris Bierwirth, 1st Lt. Victoria Bierwirth, Capt. Richard Geeting of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron and Capt. John Hoeck, commander of the 119th Fargo Cadet squadron. The CLC is part of the requirements of Level III of CAP’s Senior Member Professional Development Program. This course is focused on the relationship of the squadron with the next major echelon of command – specifically the Wing. Specifically, CLC discusses how wing-level operations help to accomplish CAP’s three missions of Aerospace Education, Emergency Services, and Cadet Programs. It describes the working relationships wing staff officers have with each other and with their squadron-level counterparts. All senior members need to complete Level III and be eligible for promotions and awards.

If any senior members have questions about Professional Development do not hesitate to contact me at: mfdonley@gmail.com. My goal is to see senior members progress in the areas of their specialty tracks, and get the awards and promotions they deserve. ✍️
Inclement weather conditions in the high northern plains, especially over South Dakota’s Black Hills can present a pilot with entirely new set of challenges, not the least of which is thunderstorms.

1. Turbulence associated with thunderstorms can be extremely hazardous, having the potential to cause overstressing of the aircraft or loss of control. A thunderstorm’s vertical currents may be strong enough to displace an aircraft up or down vertically as much as 2,000 to 6,000 feet. The greatest turbulence occurs in the vicinity of adjacent rising and descending drafts. Gust loads can be severe enough to stall an aircraft flying at rough air (maneuvering) speed or to cripple it at design cruising speed. Maximum turbulence usually occurs near the mid-level of a storm, between 12,000 and 20,000 feet, and is most severe in clouds of the greatest vertical development.

Severe turbulence is present not just within the cloud. It can be expected up to 20 miles from severe thunderstorms and will be greater downwind than into the wind. Severe turbulence and strong out-flowing winds may also be present beneath a thunderstorm. Microbursts can be especially hazardous because of the severe wind shear associated with them.

2. With lightning, static electricity may build up in the airframe interfering with operation of the radio and affecting the behavior of the compass. Trailing antennas should be wound in. Lightning blindness may affect the crew’s vision for 30 to 50 seconds at a time making instrument reading impossible during that brief period. Lightning strikes on aircraft are not uncommon. The proba-
bility of a lightning strike is greatest when the temperature is between -5°C and 5°C. If the airplane is in close proximity to a thunderstorm, a lightning strike can happen even though the aircraft is flying in clear air. Lightning strikes pose special hazards. Structural damage is possible. The solid state circuitry of modern avionics is particularly vulnerable to lightning strikes. Electrical circuits may be disrupted. The possibility of lightning igniting the fuel vapor in the fuel cells is also considered a potential hazard.

3. Hailstones are capable of inflicting serious damage to an airplane. Hail is encountered at levels between 10 and 30 thousand feet. It is, on occasion, also encountered in clear air outside the cloud as it is thrown upward and outward by especially active cells.

4. Heavy icing conditions occur above the freezing level where the water droplets are super cooled. Icing is most severe during the mature stage of the thunderstorm.

5. Rapid changes in barometric pressure associated with the storm cause altimeter readings to become very unreliable.

6. Abrupt changes in wind speed and direction in advance of a thunderstorm present a hazard during take-off and landing. Gusts in excess of 80 knots have been observed. Very violent thunderstorms draw air into their cloud bases with great intensity. Sometimes the rising air forms an extremely concentrated vortex from the surface of the ground well into the cloud with vortex speeds of 200 knots or more and very low pressure in its center. Such a vortex forms tornados.

7. Thunderstorms contain vast amounts of liquid water droplets suspended or carried aloft
by the updrafts. This water can be as damaging as hail to an aircraft penetrating the thunderstorm at high speed. Heavy rain showers associated with thunderstorms encountered during approach and landing can reduce visibility and cause refraction on the windscreen of the aircraft, producing an illusion that the runway threshold is lower than it actually is. Water lying on the runway can cause hydroplaning which destroys the braking action needed to bring the aircraft to a stop within the confines of the airport runway. Hydroplaning can also lead to loss of control during take-off.

Because of the severe hazards enumerated above, attempting to penetrate a thunderstorm is asking for trouble. In the case of flight the best advice on how to fly through a thunderstorm is summed up in one word - DON’T.

Detour around storms as early as possible when encountering them en route. Stay at least 5 miles away from a thunderstorm with large overhanging areas because of the danger of encountering hail. Stay even further away from a thunderstorm identified as very severe as turbulence may be encountered as much as 15 or more nautical miles away. Vivid and frequent lightning indicates the probability of a severe thunderstorm. Any thunderstorm with tops at 35,000 feet or higher should be regarded as extremely hazardous. Avoid landing or taking off at any airport in close proximity to an approaching thunderstorm or squall line.

Microbursts occur from cell activity and are especially hazardous if encountered during landing or take-off since severe wind shear is associated with microburst activity. Dry microbursts can sometimes be detected by a ring of dust on the surface. Do not fly under a thunderstorm even if you can see through to the other side since turbulence may be severe. Especially do not attempt to fly underneath a thunderstorm formed by orographic lift. The wind flow that is responsible for the formation of the thunderstorm is likely to create dangerous up and down drafts and turbulence between the mountain peaks.

Reduce airspeed to maneuvering speed when in the vicinity of a thunderstorm or at the first indication of turbulence. Do not fly into a cloud mass containing scattered embedded thunderstorms unless you have airborne radar. Do not attempt to fly through a narrow clear space between two thunderstorms. The turbulence there may be more severe than flying in the storms themselves. If the clear space is several miles in width, however, it may be safe to attempt to fly through the center, but always go through at the highest possible altitude. When flying around a thunderstorm, it is better to fly around the right side of it. The wind circulates counter-clockwise and you will get more favorable winds.

How To Request Use of the Civil Air Patrol

By Col. Mike Beason, CAP, former Wing Commander,
current Inspector General and Member of the Wing Incident Command Team

From time-to-time local officials, county and state emergency managers, law enforcement, and other agencies and organizations request Civil Air Patrol support for a mission. It is useful for everyone to be aware of the process that allows CAP’s South Dakota Wing to be tasked for missions.

The type of mission will determine who will fund CAP support. If the task is to search for a missing person or a missing aircraft, normally the U.S. Air Force pays for the CAP mission. That’s because the USAF has overall search responsibility within the continental United States and CAP is its executive agent for those type searches. Mission requests are coordinated through the Air Force Rescue and Coordination Center (AFRCC) at Tyndall, AFB in Florida. Funding for other types of CAP emergency responses can come from a locality, a county, the state, or the requesting agency or organization depending on the type of mission. Contact the South Dakota Office of Emergency Management for further information.

Emergency Response Request for CAP Support

To use CAP to assist in an emergency response the requesting agency should contact the local county emergency manager (EM).

- The county EM will contact the state Office of Emergency Management (OEM).
- OEM will contact the AFRCC and/or the CAP National Operations Center to obtain CAP assistance.
- OEM will contact the South Dakota Wing and provide general mission information.
- South Dakota Wing will then contact the requesting agency to obtain specific mission information.

If the requesting agency/organization has a local CAP contact, it is helpful to also contact that individual and provide notice of a pending mission request. This “heads-up” helps improve response time of CAP personnel and availability of assets. If a local CAP member is contacted s/he should in turn contact the CAP Wing Commander or Incident Commander.

Non-Emergency Request for CAP Support

If an agency or organization wishes to use South Dakota Wing assets for a non-emergency request (assistance with parades, fairs, aerial photography, or other volunteer activities) contact the nearest South Dakota Wing squadron (Sioux Falls, Brookings, Pierre, Rapid City, Custer, Spearfish). Contact information for the squadrons is on the South Dakota Wing website at www.sdcap.us under “About CAP”.

Alternatively, phone the South Dakota Wing Headquarters in Rapid City at (605) 393-4215 or by email at wa@sdcap.us. South Dakota Wing Headquarters is only manned about 20 hours per week. After hours, a non-emergency request can also be sent to the South Dakota Wing Commander, Col. John Seten, at john.seten@sdcap.us.
Tweens and teens join the Civil Air Patrol for a variety of reasons. Surveys, however, have shown that the #1 reason why they join is the opportunity to fly. CAP has a formal program to do just that called the Cadet Orientation Flight (COF) Program. The motto of the program is: Safe, Fun, Educational. COF is designed to introduce CAP cadets, under 8 years old, to general aviation through hands-on orientation flights in single engine aircraft and gliders.

Under COF, cadets are authorized five flights in the co-pilot’s seat in a powered aircraft, usually a CAP-owned Cessna, and five flights in the front seat of a glider. In addition, cadets are permitted an unlimited number of backseat flights. Cadets fly only in fair weather, under conditions that the FAA calls “visual flight rules.” In powered aircraft, cadets are aloft for 45 to 60 minutes. If two cadets fly at once, they share 90 to 120 minutes of flight time.

Generally, an airport near a CAP unit’s hometown will serve as the day’s base of operations. The cadets may stay in the immediate vicinity, or fly to a nearby airport, land, switch seats, and return to the original airport. In South Dakota, for example, orientation flights in the West River area usually are over the Black Hills. In the East River area orientation flights are usually around the Sioux Falls/Madison/Vermillion/Yankton areas. Gavin’s Point Dam is a popular destination.

While fun and educational, orientation flights are not intended as formal flight training. Orientation flights are commanded by experienced and certified CAP pilots. S/he is in control of the aircraft at all times and performs all takeoffs and landings. A cadet may handle the controls once the aircraft is above 1,000 feet. Each orientation flight has a syllabus of activities to be accomplished. The syllabi focus on such things as preflight checks,
basic maneuvers, aircraft instruments, weather, etc.

Cadets can also participate in orientation flights in military aircraft. During the annual summer encampment cadets can experience a familiarization ride in a military helicopter such as a UH-60 Black Hawk operated by the National Guard.

In the summer months each year CAP holds a number of flight academies for powered aircraft and gliders. There is even a CAP flight academy for hot air ballooning. At these academies cadets can earn the CAP cadet Solo Pilot Badge!

Cadet Tech. Sgt. Hannah Becker works toward her solo wings at last summer’s powered flight academy at Mankato.
November Joint REDCAP “FIND”

By Maj. Bruce Kipp, CAP
REDCAP Public Information Officer

Late in the evening of Saturday, 29 November the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) at Tyndall AFB, Florida notified South Dakota Wing that an aircraft had been reported overdue to return to Spearfish, SD. The AFRCC also placed the Wyoming Wing on alert as rough forensic data on the pilot’s cell phone pointed towards Colony, Wyoming as a potential search site.

Very poor weather conditions in the area that night prevented either Wing from launching an immediate search. At first light on Sunday, 30 November, an eight-man ground search and rescue team was dispatched from South Dakota Wing’s Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron (Spearfish). They were sent to Colony, WY where they conducted a local search for an aircraft emergency beacon (ELT).

Later that morning three aircraft; two from South Dakota Wing and one from Wyoming Wing were launched to conduct an aerial search for the missing aircraft’s ELT. Using onboard sensors the CAP aircraft began picking up the ELT’s signal and worked to refine the location. About an hour later, using aerial triangulation and refined cell phone forensics data the Wyoming Wing aircraft sighted the missing aircraft on the ground in the snow-covered Finger Buttes area near the tiny town of Alzada, MT.

The ground search and rescue team was redirected from Colony, WY to Alzada, MT; a three

![Photo](https://example.com/photo.jpg)

*The Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron’s Ground Search Team approaching the crash site near Alzada, MT. They are climbing the side of a saddle in the Finger Buttes area toward the knob in the center of the photo. The crash site is on the reverse slope behind the knob. Photo courtesy of Montana’s Carter County Sheriff’s Office*
state ground search mission for a single SAR team. While the ground team was en route the WYWG and SDWG aircraft took turns orbiting the crash site to direct the ground team to the location. Once officers from Montana’s Carter County Sheriff Office arrived at the crash site the SDWG ground team and both wing’s aircraft returned to their bases.

South Dakota Wing support for the REDCAP was provided by personnel from Rushmore Composite Squadron (Pierre), Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron (Spearfish) and Wing Staff members throughout the state.
“Aviation is proof, that given the will, we have the capacity to achieve the impossible” - Capt. Edward Rickenbacker

United States Air Force Academy (USAFA)

Everyone has certain parts of the United States Air Force Academy that are forever engrained in their memory. It is our nation’s premier Officer Training Program, graduating hundreds of cadets every year as new Second Lieutenants in the United States Air Force. I was able to experience the famed painted red footprints on the ground showing new cadets where to stand, run the halls for physical training and attend services in the beloved Chapel. I stood in front of the black Graduate Memorial Wall and sat (and stood) at attention while listening to briefings in Arnold Hall. The experience there is like none other.

Day 0, which is the start of Basic Training, marks the beginning of a new life for about 1,000 students. You mark your progression by where you learn essential pieces of information throughout your cadet career. Depending on your squadron, you arrive at the gate of the Academy with your small backpack full of personal belongings. This is all you carry with you of your previous life through Basic Cadet Training. The first half of your morning is spent meandering with future classmates through the halls of the reception center, where you receive your nametape and flight assignment. Waiting silently at the end of the welcome tape is the bus to the cadet area. Guarded by athletic cadets in white gloves, this is where you first learn the position of attention.

On the bus, the seven basic responses are pressed into memory, where your name is now “Basic Cadet”. The position of attention while sitting is quickly absorbed into muscle memory. When the bus stops you learn how fast you can run, and at the red footsteps you learn what it’s like to be a Preparatory school cadet. I learned that I can repeat the seven basic responses seven times in perfect push-up cadence with my fellow Northwestern Preparatory School chums before the cadre gets annoyed with us.

I learned so much more about myself during Basic Cadet Training, lovingly referred to as BEAST, than I have in quite some time. Civil Air Patrol prepared me greatly for the correct mindset during my time there. I had everything from Air Force-style unit organization to summer encampments - I understood why our cadre was yelling at...
us to perform better and just how important it was to keep our flight commander happy. As part of the prior enlisted and preparatory school group, I was able to teach and lead my flight in the good times and bad.

There were 29 of us, all from different backgrounds and with different attitudes. Our cadre was a dynamic mix; five upperclassmen with different career desires and unique leadership styles. We were designated “Bravo Flight” of the Aggressor Squadron. We ran everywhere. They pushed us hard and ran us harder, but they did so with us the whole way. We learned in our hallway how to show respect to our cadre, and from the push-up position how to build it back up. We learned how to shine our shoes and prepare our rooms for a white glove inspection. We learned that everyone has something to contribute and we needed everyone’s leadership to get there.

In front of the Memorial Wall we learned just how sacred the ground was that we walked on. I touched the names of those inscribed there and learned just how heavy a salute can be. I saw each of my flight-mates faces reflected off the stone, the weariness of BEAST carried away on the breeze for a few passing moments.

I will never forget my time at the United States Air Force Academy. It is a period in my life I will treasure along with memories of friends there I will keep for a lifetime. After attending BEAST I came to the decision that the USAFA was not the lifestyle approach I needed in order to become an outstanding officer in the United States Air Force.

**Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC)**

I am now enrolled in Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Detachment 610 at North Dakota State University in Fargo.

At AFROTC your progress is marked by the individual cadets around you. The average Detachment size is around 100 cadets. Each person plays a more personal role in forming your Air Force career. We’re an extended family, with all its grandeur and challenges. It’s a college course that requires a few hours of your time to complete. Just like the academy, you receive what you put in. Each program has its own difficulties. I was blessed enough to have the choice between both.

I made the decision to stay with AFROTC because when I become an Air Force officer I want to be able to relate to my Airmen. I made it to the United States Air Force Academy, one of the world’s top schools. I have stood “on the shoulders of giants” as CAP Major Epp once stated. The unique challenge about AFROTC is it is your choice. It is no longer an environment of absolute integrity and excellence. It is the real world, complete with car trouble and apartment rent and grocery bills. It’s balancing your professional life with academics and your personal life. It’s where your integrity will be enforced by a small group of like-minded people on campus. AFROTC cadets don’t get scholarships, nor are we slotted for high-demand jobs such as pilots as easily. In the end, however, my former colleagues in Bravo Flight will graduate with a single gold bar on their shoulders exactly like mine.

I continue to pursue my commission in the Air Force every day. Due to the experience Civil Air Patrol gave me I was placed in a Wing Staff position after only having one semester in the program. I am currently the Honor Guard Commander. I’ve used my knowledge acquired at BEAST to help define a better training program for incoming AFROTC cadets and to help my fellow cadets prepare for our version of BEAST, that is field training at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. If all goes as planned, I will complete my second basic training semester this summer and continue as an upperclassman this fall.

I would like to thank everyone who helped me achieve so much through Civil Air Patrol in North Dakota and South Dakota over the years. I would be more than happy to contribute to CAP in any way I can. And to any of you looking to pursue a commission at a Service Academy or through ROTC, please feel free to contact me. I would be more than happy to help you achieve your dreams.

(Editor: AFROTC Cadet 3rd Class Foy can currently be reached at elizabeth.foy@ndsu.edu. Due to security concerns, photos of the NDSU AFROTC facility, its training sites, and of members of its cadre have been removed from their Facebook page. The photos included with this article are from random extracurricular activities.) ☮️
Studying Mandarin in China

By Cadet Col. William Small, CAP
Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron

China Adventure (中国冒险) - During the months of March, April, and May of 2014 I lived in Wuhan China for the purpose of learning the Mandarin dialect of the Chinese language. I chose to learn Chinese mainly was due to its usefulness. More business is going to China and they are an emerging power, so it seemed like a good choice to become familiar with their language and culture. The difficulty was another reason in a way. I didn’t go after the easiest choice I went after what was hard so it means more to me to be able to learn it. This was a worthwhile opportunity in that not only did it allow me to learn a foreign language, but it also exposed me to living abroad on my own. Also, I took advantage of my time there by going to various different places on some weekends.

There were multiple reasons why I went to Wuhan to learn Mandarin. Some of the prominent reasons were to get more language credits to graduate high school, to learn how to live on my own in a different environment, and how to be responsibly independent. My parents said that if I can survive three months in China by myself, I should not have a problem with college. The reason I went to Wuhan and not a school in the US or in a city like Beijing or Shanghai, is because Wuhan is thoroughly Chinese. Meaning I was completely immersed in the language and culture of China. If I went to Beijing or Shanghai I would have found places with familiar people, foods, etc. In Wuhan I really had to search to find something familiar (besides McDonalds).

My father was with me for the start of my stay in China. I flew over to meet him in Hong Kong and then we went by train together to Wuhan. Once in Wuhan we met up with my soon-to-be teacher and another employee of Rainbow Reading (the language school I went to). They first took me to my accommodations for my stay. This was a two bed, one bath apartment with a small kitchen and living area. I stayed in one of the bedrooms and an English teacher from the Philippines (Archie) stayed in the other. During my stay I got to know Archie some and enjoyed talking to him. After I put my suitcase in the apartment my dad and I went out to do some basic shopping for things that I would need such as bed linens some light bulbs and coat hangers. I also got a cellphone. Getting a cellphone in China is a little different than getting one here. The basic premise is you buy a phone and then you buy a card for the phone which has so many minutes and data on it. It took a little time to figure this process out, but in the end I had a phone that allowed me to call others in China, and even the US (at a greater cost).

My teacher Zhong and I. Map of China showing the city of Wuhan in Hubei Province. An overview of a part of Wuhan taken from the Yellow Crane Tower.
Once I was settled in Wuhan my three months of learning routine started. Not every week was the same, but I had a basic daily routine. My school schedule was I had class every day from 10 to noon, and then from 1 to 3. Except on Thursdays when the afternoon class consisted of going somewhere in the city, like a museum or park. So, every morning I would set an alarm for around 9. Once I got up, I would try to have breakfast. What I mean by try is I normally would have some cereal and milk, but when I did not I would either grab something from McDonalds on the way to class, or just wait until lunch. To get to class, I had multiple options. I could either walk one of several routes, take the above-ground train, or the below-ground train (subway). Normally I took the subway, but towards the end of my stay I started walking more, exploring all the possible routes. I also was interested in the looks that I got from the people on the streets.

Usually I was the only non-Chinese person around and some people looked a little puzzled by my presence, especially when I got onto the smaller streets away from the main areas. Once I got to school, I would find the classroom we were in for the day and start class with my teacher. With my program I was the only student so it was just one on one with my teacher Zhong (who went by the English name of Kevin). He was teaching part-time as he was a student at Wuhan University. Once our morning class was over we would head out for lunch. Lunch quite often consisted of KFC (the China version), but we also went to a number of other eating places. In the end I got quite good with chopsticks and had a higher spice tolerance. After lunch we would have our afternoon class and then I was free for the rest of the day.

With this free time, I did many different things. Sometimes I just went back to my room and relaxed, but other times I would go exploring. I just would walk around various parks of the city, especially the parks. Other times I would go to a movie, which by itself was an experience.

Going to a movie took multiple steps. First, I had to figure out what movies were playing. I could go to the theatre, but they didn’t have pictures, only the names in Chinese characters. So I ended up getting an app on my China phone and had someone show me how to look up current movies on it. I just memorized which buttons to press and it worked. Then I had to actually go to the movie. I found the theater without too much trouble, but getting a ticket was harder. What I ended up doing was pulling up a picture of the movie I

Continued on page 28...
Unofficially dubbed "Operation Windmill", in official parlance it was called the "Wind Turbine Radar Interference Mitigation" (WTRIM) test. In mid-to-late October 2014, the Department of Defense/Department of Homeland Security Long Range Radar Joint Program Office conducted field tests in the vicinity of the Tyler Minnesota Common Air Route Surveillance radar site east of Brookings.

Operation Windmill was part of a two-year interagency effort to characterize wind turbine interference effects on existing air surveillance radars, to assess how wind farms hamper the ability to detect objects in the area, and to evaluate commercial off-the-shelf wind turbine radar interference mitigation technologies. The on-site tests were conducted by executive agents Sandia National Laboratories and Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Lincoln Laboratory.

Test operations included a South Dakota Wing (SDWG) Cessna-182 aircraft equipped with the Garmin G1000 navigation system for flights on both sides of the South Dakota-Minnesota state line, north and west of Tyler, Minn. Daily during the test period the SDWG aircraft flew parallel track search patterns, expanding square search patterns and sector search patterns within the target area for a total of about 50 flight hours. Essentially, the CAP aircraft flew patterns at an assigned altitude with a data logger for eight hours a day. The data collected is being analyzed by the DOE, DOD, DHS, DOT/FAA, and DOC/NOAA.

The South Dakota Wing participated in this project once before, in 2012. In 2014, Capt. Neil Schmid of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron was the project officer.
wanted to see on my phone and showed it to the person at the ticket counter. Then that person would show me a seat map and I would point to the seat I wanted. Finally they printed a ticket and I handed them the right amount of money. In the end, it took me a month to figure out how to do this, and I ended up doing it not that many times.

For the actual language classes, there were multiple methods used. We had a series of books we were working through that consisted of reading, speaking, and listening exercises. How it worked was when we started a new chapter in the book first I would learn how to properly say the list of new words, then I would listen to them used in sentences which I would then repeat. Generally, there were some exercises with the words like match the right image with the right sentence. We would stay on that chapter doing the exercises again and my teacher would make up some of his own until I had a decent understanding of the words and concepts addressed. Then the process was repeated with the next chapter while occasionally revisiting previous chapters. Sometimes it got tedious, but overall I was happy with the process. I found listening to the hardest because I could not understand at the speed with which they spoke. So it sometimes took a while to get through the exercise, but I did.

Walking the streets in China is different from in the US. A particular vehicle made the experience memorable. This vehicle is the electric scooter. The scooter is very popular in China. What made it so interesting though was where and how they drove. A scooter literally would drive anywhere - on the road, on the sidewalk, with traffic, against traffic, across traffic, on pedestrian overpasses, etc. And as they are electric they are silent. I was never sure where I might find one and I could not hear them. One never hit me, but they got really close.

One of the fun things I did was ride the trains in China. I took trains to Hong Kong one weekend, and to Shanghai another weekend. Like going to a movie, it was a process I had to work out, although I didn’t find it as hard. I found a website where I could look up the train schedules and then go to the station at the right time. At the station I had to find a ticket booth where I just said the name of the city I wanted and they gave me a ticket. All things considered, I am impressed I always got the ticket I wanted. Then I would go to the gate and get on the train. What I really liked about the trains in China is their punctuality and speed. If a train was schedule to leave at 1703, it left at 1703. The latest I think one ever was for me was about 40 seconds late. It was the same at the other end. If it was supposed to arrive at 1801, it arrived at 1801. It was very nice knowing the schedule was absolute. These were high speed trains which truly are high speed, they would go about 200 MPH.

At the end of the three months I would not say that I knew the language well, but I knew enough to get around. I couldn’t have conversations with people, but I could ask questions when shopping, understand announcements on the subway, read some road signs, ask where the bathroom is, order food, etc. Mandarin Chinese is a tonal language. There are five tones in Mandarin and that was one of the things I struggled with most. I could get the words right, but get the tone wrong. It got frustrating at times. An example is the word “nar”. In one tone it means “where” and in another it means “there”. So I could be trying to say “where is he?”, but actually end up saying, “he is there” because I change the tone of one word. To put it in perspective, if we had tones, the word “cat” could have five (or more) different meanings. It might mean cat, hair, run, is, and bakery for example. So, I really had to work to remember to get the tones right and remember all the meanings. I hope to continue learning but I have not a found a way so far. My college does not have a Mandarin class, but I am currently in a Chinese Pop Culture class, so my learning of China continues.

Overall, I enjoyed my time in China. It was a little stressful at times but I got through it and learned a lot. I now have fun translating for others what is actually said in movies and TV shows when they speak Mandarin. I am not sure if I want to live in China, but I do hope to visit again someday.
INSPECTIONS... UGGGH!

By Col. Mike Beason, CAP, former Wing Commander,
current Inspector General and Member of the Wing Incident Command Team

“It’s that time again. Another inspection… I hate these things!” Have you ever said that? I have. But maybe we should reconsider. What if an inspection can help you turn a good program into a GREAT program? “We’re here to help!” says the inspector. Are they really there to help? Maybe, it depends on your attitude and what you’ve done with your CAP program. Let’s review the process.

Why do we do inspections? As the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force the Civil Air Patrol receives federal funds through the USAF budget. For this reason the USAF is charged with ensuring we maintain certain standards and comply with the written regulations. The inspection process is the method the CAP Inspector General (IG) program uses to ensure units meet the standards and are complying with regulations.

There are three types of inspections:

- **Subordinate Unit Inspections** (SUI): A SUI is a triennial inspection of squadrons by the Wing IG and other designated personnel, typically former commanders or selected wing staff personnel. These subject matter experts know how CAP programs are supposed to work. They have a wealth of knowledge to share on how to make specific programs better.

- **Compliance Inspections** (CI): A CI is a triennial inspection of the Wing staff by CAP national level inspectors and USAF inspectors, active AF members whose current “job” is oversight of CAP. Virtually every functional area of administration is closely examined to insure it has met and currently meets all applicable regulations.

- **Staff Assistance Visits** (SAV): A SAV is a visit by higher headquarters and/or regional USAF liaison personnel to assist a unit in improving mission effectiveness or preparing for an upcoming inspection. In South Dakota Wing, this typically is the USAF North Central Region liaison personnel conducting a SAV of the wing staff. A SAV is conducted using the same process as a CI.

The preparation for all types of inspections is simple, know the regulations that apply to your program and apply them to your program. Piece of cake, right? Well, maybe not quite that simple. The regulations keep changing, the people in your unit keep changing, and you are a volunteer with limited time. So, where to start? Sit down and read the appropriate regulations. Pay special attention to items that start with “The unit shall (or will)...”. Reading the regulations will leave you with questions. See if there is a guide for your program. Many programs have them. Read that. Still have questions, ask your commander or the wing staff officer who is responsible for the same program at the Wing level.

Whether it is a SUI, a SAV or a CI, the inspectors want to give you a good grade. To do that, they need you to tell them about the great things you’ve done with your program, especially things that exceed what the regulations require. Simply complying with regulations won’t get you a “well done”. Determine what you’ve done “over and above” what’s required then be sure you tell the inspector about it. 🎉
SDWG Pilot Earns South Dakota Aviation Award

By Major Bruce Kipp, CAP
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Captain Neil Schmid of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron attained a significant aviation achievement last October. Flying a SDWG aircraft he completed the final requirements for the “Fly South Dakota” program’s Gold Level Award. The program, which began in 2010, is sponsored by the South Dakota Pilots Association to promote general aviation within the state. It involves attendance at aviation safety seminars, visiting South Dakota museums with aviation displays and to land at South Dakota’s public-use airports. There are three levels in the program; Bronze, Silver and Gold, each with a varying number of requirements.

When a pilot registers with the Fly South Dakota program he is issued a “Passport”, a logbook, in which he records and has verified completion of each requirement. The Gold Level Award required Neil to land at all 74 public-use airports in the state, attend four air safety seminars, and visit four South Dakota museums with aviation-related displays.

After three years of working towards his goal Neil completed the Gold Level Award requirement of visiting all the public-use airports in South Dakota by landing at Belle Fourche, Spearfish, Sturgis, Philip, Kadoka and Presho.

The Fly South Dakota Gold Level Award consists of an “I Flew South Dakota” patch and, for the Gold Level Award, a “74 Airports” tab for wear on his civilian flight jacket.

Map of all 74 South Dakota airports where Capt. Schmid landed to earn the Gold Level Award.

Capt. Schmid next to the CAP aircraft.

Fly South Dakota Gold Level Award patch and tab for wear on Neil’s civilian flight jacket.

Capt. Schmid’s Fly South Dakota Passport logbook.
SOUTH DAKOTA WING’S NEWEST
LIEUTENANT COLONELS

By Maj. Bruce Kipp, CAP
Wing Public Affairs Officer

South Dakota Wing can boast of two new Lieutenant Colonels; Joyce Jeffries and Nancy McKenney. Both were promoted to their new rank in October of 2014.

Lt. Col. Nancy McKenney joined CAP in the fall of 1992. She currently serves on the Wing Staff in several duty positions and frequently assists in Cadet Programs. Over the years she has participated in REDCAPS as an aircrew member and took part in innumerable SAREXs. She has attended eight encampments in both North and South Dakota. As a cadet activity chaperone she has spent her share of time sleeping on hard floors. Nancy is also a long-time member of the Red Cross and has travelled around the United States helping manage shelters at disaster locations.

Lieutenant Colonel (abbreviated Lt. Col.) is the highest rank a wing member can attain without being a wing commander. The path to Lieutenant Colonel is an arduous one. First, it takes many years of excellent service with stops along the way at Second Lieutenant, First Lieutenant, Captain, and Major. It also usually entails serving in a variety of duty positions as well as advancement through the various levels of the CAP Senior Member Professional Development Program that focuses on education and training. Finally, not only must an individual attend various courses, conferences, seminars, staff colleges and academies as a student but must also later be a member of the cadre of, or teach at these activities. There are a lot of steps to go through to reach the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Civil Air Patrol.

A silver oak leaf, the rank insignia of a CAP Lieutenant Colonel.

CAP Lieutenant Colonel Joyce Jeffries

Lt. Col. Joyce Jeffries joined CAP’s Mississippi Wing in 1973. When her USAF family was reassigned to Misawa Air Base, Japan she transferred to the base’s CAP unit. Upon reassignment of her family back to the US she transferred to the CAP unit at Ellsworth AFB where she is assigned today. Joyce is also very active as a Red Cross Disaster Response Volunteer as well as working with the Amateur Radio Emergency Service and USAF MARS radio.
Honoring CAP Veteran
John Gibson “Jack” Rae Jr.

South Dakota Wing Roundup

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In This Issue . . .

Delmont Tornado 3
Commander’s Corner 4
CAP National Commander Visits South Dakota Wing 5
CAP Congressional Gold Medal Update 7
Cadets Present Challenge Coin to Squadron Commander 8
CAP Officer Inducted into Engineering Order 9
Exercise “Constant Watch-15” 11
Congressional and Wing Legislative Squadron 14
Recreating a WWII-Era CAP Uniform 15
The 2015 South Dakota Wing Conference and Awards Banquet 18
Wing Cadet Leadership School 21
What’s an ELT and How Does CAP Track It? 23
Wings of Our Founders - 1942 CAP Piper J-3 Cub 28
Team Big Sioux Wins Second Place in National CyberPatriot-VII 31
South Dakota Wing’s First Senior Member NCO 33
Wing Legislative Day at the State Capitol 34
Winter Survival Training 35

COVER PHOTO: A 1/6 scale Piper J-3 in 1942 CAP livery built by South Dakota Wing Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gary Rae to honor his late father, WWII CAP veteran John Gibson “Jack” Rae Jr., a recipient of the CAP Congressional Gold Medal. The photo is of Jack in WWII CAP uniform circa 1943. Next to it is the CAP CGM presented to the Rae family by SD Congresswoman Kristi Noem.
We take responsibility for designing projects that live lightly on the land and encourage minimal use of resources. We strive for a green architecture that performs technologically and also stirs the imaginations of its inhabitants.
On Sunday, 10 May, at 10:45 local time an EF-2 tornado with winds over 100mph roared through the small town of Delmont, located about 90 southwest of Sioux Falls. The town of about 200 lost all power, water and telephone service. 84 structures in and around Delmont were damaged or destroyed. Fortunately there were no fatalities, however at least nine people were injured and some livestock were killed. Hardest hit was the western edge of the town with Seaman Street suffering the majority of the damage. The town’s new fire hall and a Lutheran Church bore the brunt of the tornado’s fury.

Shortly after learning of the tornado South Dakota Wing Commander Col. John Seten authorized a Sioux Falls-based Civil Air Patrol Cessna-182/G1000 aircraft to fly over the area and take photos of the damage. However, the poor weather conditions on the 10th prevented effective aerial photography. The aircrew for that sortie was Mission Pilot Capt. Matt Meert, Mission Scanner Capt. Karla West and Mission Observer Capt. Jason Erickson. A second aerial photography sortie over Delmont was conducted on the 12th. The aircrew was Mission Pilot Col. John Seten, Mission Observer Capt. Neil Schmid, and Mission Scanner Capt. Karla West. Nearly 200 high resolution photos of the damage were taken and provided to emergency management officials, first responders and the media.
Commander’s Corner

By Col. John Seten
South Dakota Wing Commander

It seems like I just wrote an article for the last Wing Roundup and I’m being told it’s time to sharpen the pencil and do another one. That means spring is here and summer just around the corner. Goodbye winter! - although the second week of May brought tornadoes and devastation to the eastern South Dakota while a snowstorm was closing roads in the western part of the state.

As I write this I’m listening to the Exercise “Constant Watch-15” radio traffic in my office. We have people across the state participating in this communications exercise and we have an airborne repeater covering the state. We are gearing up for another search and rescue exercise at the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer at the end of May and we are again supporting the South Dakota Air National Guard by performing Low-Level Route Surveys of their training areas. We’ll likely have numerous Low-Level Route Surveys for the newly expanded Powder River Military Operations Area as well. We are hosting the Joint Dakotas Encampment at the South Dakota National Guard’s Camp Rapid in Rapid City this year and I know the staff has been busy preparing for that.

Our wing conference was in April and I we had a great turnout. The highlight of the conference was the presentation of a Congressional Gold Medal to the family of the late WWII CAP veteran John Gibson “Jack” Rae Jr by US Representative Kristi Noem. Accepting the award on John’s behalf was Lt. Col. Gary Rae, our wing chaplain. Our members received many well deserved awards as well.

We are still actively seeking individuals and/or relatives living in South Dakota to receive the CAP Congressional Gold Medal. Anyone that served in CAP during WW II is eligible for the award and we’re getting more and more leads that we’re following up on. I expect to have a number of medals that we’ll be presenting around the state in the next few months. If anyone is aware of members of CAP during WW II please let us know.

The South Dakota Wing is not large in numbers of members but we’ve got quality members and they do a great job for us. When called upon for a REDCAP we always put together a team to get the job done. We’ve got a great group!

Have a great summer and stay safe!
The National Commander of the Civil Air Patrol, Major General Joseph Vazquez, paid a brief visit to Sioux Falls today to meet with members of CAP’s South Dakota Wing. The meeting took place at the Holiday Inn Sioux Falls – City Center. Accompanying Maj. Gen. Vazquez was his wife, CAP Lt. Col. Leslie Vazquez, Civil Air Patrol’s Aviation Industry Liaison.

Major General Vazquez briefed the attendees on upcoming and proposed organizational changes, various operational issues, on closer relations with the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, and making CAP’s data interfaces more user-friendly. At the end he took questions from Wing members.

SDCAP Wing Commander Col. John Seten commented, “What a great opportunity for our members to hear the way ahead from the top, while we give leadership the view from the field. We really appreciate the General and Lt. Col. Vazquez visit.

CAP Major General Vazquez was appointed to a three-year term as CAP’s National Commander/CEO on April 4, 2014 and assumed command at a formal change-of-command ceremony on August 15, 2014, at CAP’s 2014 National Conference. Prior to his appointment as National Commander he served a three-year term as National Vice Commander with the grade of CAP Brigadier General. The National Commander and National Vice Commander are the only two CAP officers to hold general’s grade.
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Bruce is a native of Texas who spent over 24 years in the U.S. Air Force.

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CAP Congressional Gold Medal Update

By Maj. Bruce Kipp, CAP
Wing PAO

CAP was founded December 1, 1941, a week before the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the United States’ entry into WWII. CAP units quickly formed along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts to conduct anti-submarine patrols to help ward off German U-boat attacks on American oil tankers and cargo ships. Over the next 15 months, CAP members used their own planes to hunt German subs. The patrols accounted for 86,685 missions that involved 244,600 flight hours and over 24 million air miles. They sighted 173 submarines, are credited with dropping bombs that sank two subs, and located more than 300 survivors of U-boat attacks. Overall the members of the Civil Air Patrol logged an estimated 750,000 hours of flight time during the war. Sixty-four members died in service during World War II. In the interior of the US, CAP’s early members also took to the skies to patrol the nation’s borders, tow targets for military training, watch for forest fires, conduct search and rescue missions, provide disaster relief, transport people and parts and conduct orientation flights for future pilots.

On 10 December, at a ceremony in Statuary Hall at the U.S. Capitol a Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) was presented to collectively honor World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol whose valor and dedication during the war helped thwart the enemy submarine attacks against our vital shipping lines, saved lives, secured our nation’s borders, conducted missions to support the war effort, and helped train members of the armed forces. The CGM was accepted by Lester Wolff, a WWII CAP sub-chaser and former U.S. representative from New York and by CAP National Commander Maj. Gen. Joe Vazquez on behalf of all WWII-era CAP members.

Later that evening a gala dinner was held for surviving veterans, families of deceased members, CAP members and distinguished guests. General Vazquez personally presented the CGM to each CAP WWII veteran or to a member of the family of a deceased veteran who were present.

The South Dakota Wing currently knows of six WWII CAP veterans who are to receive the CGM; two living, Sylvia Henkin, a resident of Sioux Falls and Ms. Pauline Hanson Brehe, a resident of Pierre, and four deceased individuals – Luverne “Vern” Kraemer, Earl Wilkinson, John Rae Jr. and Vernon Jeffries whose families reside in the state.

Mrs. Norma Kraemer, widow of Vern Kraemer, travelled to

Continued on page 36...
Cadets Present Challenge Coin to Squadron Commander

By Capt. Karla West, CAP, Sioux Falls Composite Squadron and Maj. Bruce Kipp, CAP, Wing PAO

On 2 April, at the weekly meeting of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron in Sioux Falls the cadets had a surprise for their commander. In a rare turn of events the cadet corps presented Squadron Commander Capt. Jason Erickson with a challenge coin to thank him for all of the hard work he puts in for the cadets and for the squadron.

In the Civil Air Patrol, challenge coins are normally presented by commanders to a member of their unit as an award for outstanding service, a reward for excellent performance of duty, or to recognize a specific act worthy of special recognition but not meeting the criteria for an official medal. For cadet members of a CAP unit to present one to their commander is most unusual.

According to Wikipedia, a challenge coin is a coin or medallion bearing an organization’s insignia or emblem. Challenge coins are small, ranging in size from 1” to 2”. They may be cast or die struck and have a variety of finishes. Many have an ornate and colorful design. Some challenge coins have space on the back (the reverse) for an inscription. The coin presented to Capt. Erickson has “2015 S F C S” engraved on the reverse.

These coins are still customarily called “challenge coins” primarily due to military social tradition. A challenge is a common way to check that unit members have their coin with them. At a social event the challenge begins with the challenger displaying his/her coin and loudly announcing “Coin Check”. Everyone challenged must show their own coin. Anyone failing to do so must buy a round of drinks for everyone showing their coin. If everyone challenged shows their coin then the challenger must buy the round of drinks.

In the military and civilian world challenge coins are also presented for other reasons, for example to prove membership in an organization as a way to boost morale and enhance esprit de corps. Military officials give them to non-military personnel for outstanding service or as a reward. In addition, challenge coins can be presented by any organization as a memento.

Recognized as an “Americanism”, challenge coins have steadily grown in popularity among U.S. military units and even to foreign militaries. Challenge coins have also become popular with non-military organizations such as law enforcement and emergency services and fraternal groups. Even the news and entertainment industry uses challenge coins finding them an excellent way to foster team spirit and build goodwill. An entire hobby of collecting challenge coins has sprung up.

For an excellent article on challenge coins see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Challenge_coin, accessed for this article on 4 April 2015.
CAP Officer Inducted into Engineering Order

By Maj. Bruce Kipp, CAP
SDWG Public Affairs Officer

First Lieutenant Victoria Bierwirth of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer, a member of the Civil Air Patrol’s South Dakota Wing, was inducted into the Order of the Engineer at a ceremony on 17 February at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. 98 graduating seniors of 2015 from the computer sciences and various engineering disciplines accepted the Obligation of the Engineer.

Lt. Bierwirth will graduate in May 2015 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Geological Engineering with minors in Geospatial Technology and German. If all goes as planned, she will pursue a Master of Science degree in Groundwater Management in Germany beginning in 2016.

The Order of the Engineer was founded in the United States to foster pride, dedication and responsibility to the engineering profession. The first induction ceremony was held in 1970. Since then, induction ceremonies have been held across the U.S. at which graduate and registered engineers are invited to accept the Obligation of the Engineer, a formal ethical code of an engineer’s responsibilities to the profession and to the public. Only those who meet high standards of professional engineering training or experience are invited to accept the obligation, which is voluntarily received for life. The commitment is not a trivial act but is, rather, like the merging of the individual and profession. One voluntarily pledges to uphold the standards and dignity of the engineering profession and to serve humanity by making the best use of Earth’s precious and limited resources.

Upon induction the individual is presented with a stainless steel engineer’s ring to present to the public a visible symbol identifying the engineer. In the United States the ring is worn on the fifth finger of the working hand.

South Dakota, which falls within Region III of the Order, has two chapters (called Links) in the state; at South Dakota State University (Link 21, established in 1975) and at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (Link 62, established in 1980).

Victoria is a remarkable young woman. Her passion for geological engineering began with a job with the National Park Service as a Park Guide at Jewel Cave National Monument. This was followed by a position as a research co-op with NASA working with satellite and airborne imagery.

Continued on page 13 . . .
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The South Dakota Wing participated in the Civil Air Patrol's National Communications Exercise “Constant Watch 15” on Friday and Saturday, the 15th and 16th of May. This exercise is held annually to test CAP’s ability to pass messages throughout the nation on long-range high frequency (HF) radio. This year we were also allowed to pass messages from HF operators to other units over short range very high frequency (VHF) radios. The South Dakota Wing’s portion of the exercise was organized and directed by Capt. Jerry Gabert, Wing Director of Communications.

The overall exercise began on the afternoon of 15 May Friday. Several SDWG radio operators participated on Friday afternoon and evening. Capt. Jerry Gabert and Lt. Rob Hinkhouse of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, checked in on an HF radio in Sioux Falls. Lt. Todd Dravland of Pierre Composite Squadron checked in on his HF radio in Pierre. SM Jeff Shawd of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron operated his HF radio in Valley Springs and took several Whiskey Tango (numerically encoded) messages and successfully entered them into the CAP computer system. Lt. Col. Dave Jefferies of Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City checked in from his mobile HF radio and took Whiskey Tango messages while also volunteering with the Red Cross at Delmont, SD. The weather conditions were not conducive for HF reception due to the thunderstorms passing through the western part of the state but we still managed to successfully pass some messages.

Capt. Gabert and Lt. Hinkhouse were also busy on Friday night planning messages to send on Saturday. They made up a practice decoder to simulate sending coded messages and then formulated several coded messages.

On Saturday morning the exercise was expanded to include an airborne radio signal repeater. The airborne repeater was carried in the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron’s Cessna-182 piloted by Capt. Neil Schmid with Maj. Elliott Filler as the Mission Observer. Through the airborne radio signal repeater we were able to establish communications from Sioux Falls to Brookings, from Brookings to Valley Springs, from Valley Springs to Sioux Falls, and from Pierre to Delmont.

SDWG members that participated on Saturday were Lt. Col. Mark Huntington, Lt. Rob Hinkhouse, Capt. Jerry Foy, Capt. Jerry Gabert and Cadet Eric Ortega and Cadet Airman Oscar Holmberg at the
Kevin, Karl & Staff are proud to salute and support the many fine men, women & young cadets of the South Dakota Civil Air Patrol... Keep up the great work!

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Many practice coded messages were sent between Sioux Falls, Brookings and Valley Springs. The messages were then deciphered by the receiving station and verified by the sending station.

Overall this was a very successful communications exercise. There were a few unexpected obstacles we needed to work around such as the stormy weather, a few technical difficulties, and one of our key HF operators being called for Red Cross disaster duties. Lt. Col. Jefferies found a way around that by operating the mobile HF radio in his vehicle when he was not on his Red Cross duty shift. Thanks to all who participated and hope to expand our participation in the Constant Watch exercise next year.

at the Goddard Space Flight Center. She moved on to be a Geoscience-Public Policy intern at the Washington, DC-based American Geosciences Institute (AGI)-Government Affairs Program where she was the liaison between the geosciences community and Congress. At both NASA and AGI she published articles in various technical magazines. Her next adventure led her to the Beartooth Mountains of Montana where she was a geology intern at the United States’ lone platinum and palladium mine at Stillwater Mining Company. Immediately following Stillwater she left for Germany as she had been awarded a fellowship with the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals where she represented the United States as a student ambassador in Germany for one year (2012-2013). She was one of 75 students selected throughout the United States to participate in this cultural exchange where she learned the German language, attended a German university, and interned with a German company, Beck Consultants. While at Beck Consultants, she worked on mineral prospective maps for Rwanda and Uganda and assisted in determining the rate of ground settlement at a former German mine site.

Since her return from Germany, she is concluding her studies while also working as an Engineering Technician for the U.S. Forest Service, as a Student Aid Researcher in a water quality research in Custer, as a Young Ambassador representing the German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst) at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

If that were not busy enough, Ms. Bierwirth also serves as a First Lieutenant in the South Dakota Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, the all-volunteer official civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. She is a member of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer where she is the Deputy Commander for Cadets and the unit’s Aerospace Education Officer. She enthuses, “I have always had a love for aerospace and teaching. My cadets make me super proud everyday inside and outside of CAP. To be honest, they make my job really easy.”
Congressional and Wing Legislative Squadron

By Maj. Bruce Kipp, CAP
Wing Public Affairs Officer

CAP Regulation 20-3 authorizes each state’s Civil Air Patrol Wing to establish a special squadron for members of their state legislature. Membership in the state Legislative Squadron is open to state legislators, elected state officials and key members of their staff. In 2013, South Dakota Wing set about forming a Legislative Squadron by filing the charter paperwork with CAP National Headquarters after which we began recruitment.

Each member of a state Legislative Squadron receives a CAP membership certificate and identification card and is promoted to the honorary grade of CAP Major. Legislative Squadron members are authorized to fly in CAP aircraft, visit CAP unit meetings and attend social events.

Currently, membership in the South Dakota Wing Legislative Squadron stands at 11; three state senators and eight state representatives.

At the national level there is a special Civil Air Patrol Congressional Squadron open to members of congress and their staffs. All three South Dakota members of congress have joined the Congressional Squadron.

Congressional Squadron
Sen. Mike Rounds
Sen. John Thune
Rep. Kristi Noem

Legislative Squadron
Sen. Betty Olsen
Sen. Bruce Rampelberg
Sen. Tim Rounds
Rep. Blaine Campbell
Rep. Spencer Hawley
Rep. Leslie Heinemann
Rep. Dan Kaiser
Rep. Isaac Latterell
Rep. Tona Rozum
Rep. Jim Stalzer
Rep. Mathew Wollmann

The South Dakota Wing is especially fortunate that Manny Steele, a former state Representative and member of the State Legislative Squadron, is now a Lieutenant in the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron. Lt. Steele, who serves as the Wing’s Assistant Government Relations Officer, maintains contact with his former legislative colleagues and has been instrumental in recruiting new members to the Legislative Squadron.

South Dakota Wing plans to enliven the experience of the members of the state Legislative Squadron by holding such activities as a “Fly-a-Legislator Day”, inviting them to observe and perhaps participate in a search and rescue training mission, and welcoming them to attend squadron meetings and social events.
Recreating a WWII-ERA CAP Uniform

By South Dakota Wing Chaplain Gary Rae (Lt. Col., CAP)

Back to our Roots: 2016 marks the 75th Anniversary of the Civil Air Patrol. I have been a member of CAP for 32 years and over that time I’ve accumulated keepsakes from CAP’s 50th, 60th and 70th anniversaries. But the recent awarding of the CAP Congressional Gold Medal and the upcoming 75th anniversary caught my attention! Especially as my own father, John Gibson “Jack” Rae, Jr. was a WWII CAP veteran. His picture in a 1942 CAP uniform, and learning he could receive the Congressional Gold Medal posthumously inspired me to look closer at our CAP roots.

I was asked by Maj. Todd Epp, our Wing Historian, to serve on the 75th Anniversary History Task force. I felt that one of the best ways to tell our story was make it walk and talk again using an authentic 1942 CAP uniform. Why 1942? It was the year when my father was in CAP as evidenced by his dated photograph with the CAP shoulder patch in clear view.

Assembling the Uniform a Piece at a Time: It took months of searching the Internet, eBay and other sources I could to find to obtain the uniform’s insignia; silver cut out CAP metal collar insignia, the silver prop and wings collar insignia, and the distinctive WWII-era CAP officer’s cap insignia. Because I had my father’s original CAP shoulder patch, I wanted the uniform to be as authentic as possible. Next I found a site that had original 500-Hour Service Ribbons left over from the war. Ribbons were different then but still tell important stories about the person to whom they were awarded! Eventually I found a pair of real sterling silver WWII CAP pilot’s wings worn by a man who flew courier service in CAP off the coast of Massachusetts.

Chaplain Rae in his recreated WWII CAP uniform preparing for his interview on South Dakota Public Broadcasting Television’s “Dakota Life” program.

Chaplain Rae wearing his recreated WWII CAP uniform (right side). Note the collar insignia.

Chaplain Rae wearing his recreated WWII CAP uniform (left side). Note the collar insignia, patch, pilot’s wings, and award ribbon.

Close-up of WWII CAP peaked cap with distinctive CAP badge.
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Thanks, C.A.P.!
Next I searched for a replica khaki uniform. That’s when I came across the on-line U.S. Wings Company. I purchased the cotton trousers, shirt, belt/buckle, and the coveted khaki crushed pilot’s cap. It did not take long to see that without the modern cotton/polyester blend they would wrinkle easily and require more care than present day uniforms! Because U.S. Wings clothing ran small I was unable, with my longer arms, to wear the long sleeve khaki uniform shirt which would bear the individual’s service record on the sleeve. That is one inaccuracy. Although I already had khaki socks, the other inaccuracy was my refusal to buy tan shoes!

SDWG PAO, gave me the name and email address of a CAP member in the Pennsylvania wing that is part of a CAP re-enactment group.

**History came alive!** At first I asked George Brezik about the strange red epaulettes that were only worn for two years, never to be seen again! George was very encouraging and excited to help me on my quest! He sent me a set of epauletts which would serve as a pattern. With red material on hand I took a modified pattern to my military seamstress. I now have the pattern and plenty of material for anyone that would like to sew their own. According to George, in those days, everyone pretty much had to make their own as well!

With plenty of old metal rank insignia sitting in my drawers to place on the red epauletts, I reduced my grade from Lieutenant Colonel to Major in order to be true to CAP’s rank structure in 1942. You see, there were no authorized Lieutenant Colonel’s until 1944! However, those who wore Major’s rank in those days were usually the Wing Commander!

Later, Mr. Brezik sent me a copy of the “1944 CAP Handbook from the Texas Southern Flight”. It was a gold mine of history and information on uniforms, and on CAP’s missions, training and regulations. It became the authority for my telling our story!

At the 2015 Wing Conference in April, Maj. Epp led a session seeking ideas for celebrating CAP’s 75th Anniversary. The task force wants CAP history to come alive again. We would like to replicate CAP radio transmissions, re-enact anti-submarine or tow target missions, and teach today’s members the values and commitments that formed our Core Values. We are encouraging each squadron to take time to explore their local history during the year.

The DNA of CAP lies within the men, women, and cadets of 1942. To study history just for it to be a Wikipedia of trivia is meaningless unless it can teach and re-connect us to the missions of the present day. The scripture Isaiah 51:1 says “Look to the rock from which you were cut and the quarry from which you were digged”. 1942 was the quarry from which we were dug, and the men and women are the rocks that were shaped so that we could stand upon their shoulders. If we are cut from that same quarry, and shaped by their values, future generations will stand upon OUR shoulders. **Semper Vigilans!**
The South Dakota Wing held its 2015 Wing Conference and Awards Banquet on Saturday, 18 April at the Clubhouse Hotel and Suites in Pierre. Approximately 85 officers and cadets from SDWG attended along with several guests.

Distinguished visitors attending were: Col. Robert Todd, North Central Region Commander; Col. Darrell Nelson, Nebraska Wing Commander; Lt. Col. Bonnie Braun, North Central Region Director of Drug Demand Reduction Programs; Lt. Col. Don Barbalace, National Headquarters Inspector General Team; and Capt. Chuck Brudtkuhl, National Headquarters Communications Team and Iowa Wing Director of Communications.

The first part of the morning was a general session with wing staff officers and squadron commanders making presentations. The highlight of the morning was a skit performed by cadets, under the supervision of Lt. Col. Linda Buechler, on the collateral consequences of drunk driving. Following the general session the senior member participants split up to attend breakout sessions on a variety of administrative and operational topics.

Congresswoman Kristi Noem presents the CAP Congressional Gold Medal to Wing Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gary Rae, son of deceased WWII Civil Air Patrol veteran John Gibson “Jack” Rae Jr.

The cadets attended breakout sessions on Drug Demand Reduction, Aerospace Education, and the National Cadet Competition. In addition, the Wing’s Cadet Advisory Council met. The senior member and cadet breakout sessions lasted until the late afternoon when it was time to prepare for the evening banquet and awards ceremony.

The guest speaker at the evening banquet was South Dakota’s Congresswoman Kristi Noem. Two highlights of the awards ceremony were the presentation of the CAP Congressional Gold Medal to Wing Chaplain Lt. Col. Gary Rae, the son of deceased WWII CAP veteran John Gibson “Jack” Rae Jr., and the presentation of Civil Air Patrol membership credentials to Ms. Noem. In addition, a number of wing, squadron and individual awards were presented.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION “OF THE YEAR” AWARD

DDR Officer of the Year

Lt. Col. Linda Buechler, Director of Cadet
Programs, South Dakota Wing Staff

**WING “OF THE YEAR” AWARDS**

**Col Robert V. “Bud” Payton Public Affairs Officer of the Year**
1st Lt. Kris Bierwirth, Crazy Horse Composite Squadron (Custer)

**Aerospace Education Officer of the Year**
1st Lt. Victoria Bierwirth, Crazy Horse Composite Squadron (Custer)

**Public Affairs Officer of the Year**
Lt. Col. William Hopewell, Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron (Spearfish)

**Drug Demand Reduction Member of the Year**
Lt. Col. Linda Buechler, South Dakota Wing Staff

**Professional Development Officer of the Year**
Capt. Karen Espeland, Sioux Falls Composite Squadron (Sioux Falls)

**Cadet Program Officer of the Year**
Lt. Col. Myra Christensen, Pierre Composite Squadron (Pierre)

**Squadron of the Year**
Big Sioux Composite Squadron (Brookings)

**Senior Member of the Year**
Capt. Neil Schmid, Sioux Falls Composite Squadron (Sioux Falls)

**Cadet of the Year**
C/Lt Col Joshua Klosterman, Big Sioux Composite Squadron (Brookings)

**Cadet NCO of the Year**
C/MSgt Steven Diaconu, Sioux Falls Composite Squadron (Sioux Falls)

**UNIT AWARDS**

**Quality Cadet Unit Award**
Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron (Spearfish)
Rushmore Composite Squadron (Rapid City)

**INDIVIDUAL AWARDS**

**Search and Rescue “Find” Ribbon**
Mike Beason, South Dakota Wing Staff
Capt. William Collister, Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron (Spearfish)
Maj. Craig Goodrich, Rushmore Composite Squadron (Rapid City)
Capt. Joshua Hall, Rushmore Composite Squadron (Rapid City)
Lt. Col. Gary Hewett, Rushmore Composite Squadron (Rapid City)
1st Lt. Ryan Jones, Rushmore Composite Squadron (Rapid City)
Maj. Bruce Kipp, South Dakota Wing Staff
Maj. Deryl Miles, South Dakota Wing Staff
Capt. Patrick Nowlin, Rushmore Composite Squadron (Rapid City)
Maj. David Small Jr., South Dakota Wing Staff
C/2nd Lt Bradley Blansett, Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron (Spearfish)
C/1st Lt Jared Doyle, Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron (Spearfish)
C/A1C Malia Goodrich, Rushmore Composite Squadron (Rapid City)

*Continued on page 27...*
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Dr. James Torsney and Staff salutes the Civil Air Patrol members and cadets.
Keep up the good work!
In February, South Dakota Wing held a Cadet Leadership School (CLS) in Pierre. It was an opportunity for cadets, both airmen and noncommissioned officers, to learn the fundamentals of leadership, followership, customs and courtesies, and much more.

In addition to the traditional classroom setting, the cadets participated in activities focusing on teamwork and on aerospace related topics. In addition, the cadets were able to work on their drill maneuvers, as well as attend an Emergency Services winter survival training session taught by Sioux Falls Composite Squadron’s Capt. Dan Schneider.

Aside from all the training over the course of the weekend the cadets had sufficient downtime to engage in a game of soccer, basketball, Frisbee, or simply spend time with other cadets from throughout the wing.
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What’s an ELT and How Does CAP Track It?

By Maj. Bruce Kipp, CAP
Wing PAO

Background

In 1970, Congress passed a law requiring general aviation aircraft registered in the U.S. to be equipped with an Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT). The intent of the law was to try to provide for quicker searches for crashed aircraft and to reduce the suffering of survivors of a crash. All private aircraft were to have an ELT installed by mid-1974.

The concept was that in the event of the crash of a general aviation aircraft, other aircraft flying overhead would pick up the ELT signal and notify Air Traffic Control of the signal’s general location. This information would be passed to either the U.S. Air Force or the U.S. Coast Guard, the executive agents for search and rescue (SAR) on land and on water respectively. The concept evolved when the United States began launching ELT-detecting satellites in 1982. These two methods provide ELT-detection coverage in the United States.

What Is An ELT?

An ELT is a small emergency radio beacon that when activated sends out a distress signal. The ELT’s signal aids in the rapid detection and location of the crash site. There are two primary types of aircraft ELTs in use today, the older analog model that operates on 121.5 MHz and the newer digital model that operates on 406 MHz.

121.5 MHz Emergency Locator Transmitter

ELTs operating on 121.5 MHz transmit a low-power analog “siren” tone in the VHF band. There are some limitations to broadcasting on this frequency. Radio waves travel in a straight line-of-sight and can be blocked by terrain or by manmade objects. The signal can also be degraded by poor weather conditions.

Initially, 121.5 ELTs were picked up by satellite but the signal discrimination was not precise and often resulted in a very large search area. In addition coverage was only partial because the satellite had to be in view of both the ELT and its ground station at the same time. Further, the 121.5 MHz frequency was the standard aviation emergency frequency, and there can be interference from other electronic and electrical systems, resulting in false alarms.
When the ELT-detecting satellite system switched from monitoring 121.5 MHz to monitoring 406 MHz the result is the 121.5 ELT frequency now is only detected by ground-based receivers such as those at local airports and air traffic control facilities. The 121.5 MHz ELT frequency is also monitored by most commercial airliners and some military aircraft while in flight. This method is not very precise and can result in large search areas.

**406 MHz Emergency Locator Transmitter**

In February 2009, the satellite network switched from monitoring 121.5 ELTs to monitoring 406 MHz ELTs (hereafter 406 ELT). The 406 ELTs are digital and when activated transmit a digital burst signal every 50 seconds. These ELTs have greater frequency stability and a higher power output that the older 121.5 ELTs.

The burst signal includes an encoded digital serial number unique to that airplane. The signal is received by the satellite system which decodes the information and provides that data to the appropriate search and rescue center. In the U.S., NOAA provides the alert data to the appropriate US Air Force or Coast Guard rescue center. They can then try to contact the owner to verify the status of the aircraft. This feature expedites search and rescue efforts and helps avoid alerting and launching search forces for false alerts.

For some models of 406 ELT the burst signal includes the GPS latitude and longitude of the beacon, which provides instant distress-location information. One of the major benefits of the 406 ELT is that the accuracy of signal location is about 1 to 3.5 miles without GPS, and to less than 100 yards with GPS.

In addition to its high-power digital signal, 406 ELTs transmit a continuous low-power 121.5 MHz signal for close-in homing. The low-power 121.5 MHz “homing” transmitter aids near-by searchers in finding the aircraft.

Current FAA policy does not require already installed 121.5 ELTs be replaced with a 406 ELT. Due to the relatively high cost of a digital 406 ELT many general aviation pilots continue to use their analog 121.5 MHz ELT. They do not need to upgrade until their 121.5 ELT fails to operate correctly.

**What Causes An ELT To Activate?**

ELTs are designed with a gravity switch that automatically activates the beacon when a specific amount of gravity (impact) forces the switch closed. The primary reason for activation of an ELT is a crash. There are, however, other reasons why an ELT might activate: if the aircraft experiences an unusually hard landing; if the ELT’s battery begins to fail; or, if there is a malfunction in the aircraft’s electrical circuits. ELTs can also activate due to improper maintenance procedures, or by inadvertent activation from the cockpit. Generally, when activated a 121.5 MHz ELT transmits until the battery is depleted. A 406 ELT is designed to transmit for 24 hours on high power after which its low-power 121.5 MHZ signal transmits for about 48 hours, until the battery is drained.
Five aircraft; how does the Civil Air Patrol become involved?

Rescue Coordination Centers (RCCs) in the U.S. are operated by the Coast Guard for maritime emergencies and the Air Force for inland emergencies. The RCCs receive distress alerts and coordinate SAR responses to the distress.

The Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) at Tyndall AFB, Florida is the executive agent for conducting inland SAR missions for ELT signal activations. The AFRCC coordinates SAR activities, but does not directly conduct the missions. In most situations, the actual search and rescue is carried out by the Civil Air Patrol, state police or local rescue services.

When AFRCC is notified of ELT activation it also receives preliminary locational data. This data is used to determine the initial location for a SAR mission. If it is determined that the Civil Air Patrol is best positioned to conduct the SAR the AFRCC notifies the appropriate CAP Wing (each state is a Wing). Each year around 95% of all inland SAR missions are carried out by the volunteer personnel, aircraft and vehicles of CAP.

How the South Dakota Wing Tracks An ELT

The South Dakota Wing currently has six CAP aircraft; three Cessna-172s and three Cessna-182s. Five of the six aircraft are equipped with a high tech radio-direction-finding device, a “Becker SAR-DF-517”, which can track the 121.5 MHz ELT signal. In addition, the Wing has several hand-held radio-direction-finding (RDF) devices for use by ground search teams.

When South Dakota Wing is placed on alert for an ELT search the Wing will activate one or more of the air and ground assets nearest to the initial locational data provided by the AFRCC. Aircrews and ground search team members assemble and are briefed on the mission.

Initially one or more aircraft take off and fly to the general location provided by the AFRCC and conduct a search pattern using the Becker to try to pick up the ELT signal. This can be a lengthy, tedious process as the aircraft hunts for the signal.

Each time the Becker picks up the ELT’s signal the cockpit control display shows a line-of-bearing and whether the signal is coming from the left or right side of the aircraft. In addition, the Becker registers signal strength; if the signal grows weaker the aircraft is flying away from the ELT, an increasingly strong signal indicates the aircraft is flying towards the ELT. The aircrew further analyzes the location of the ELT by including data from the aircraft’s GPS, by reading old-fashioned paper maps and, during daylight, by using their eyes.

Around the same time one or more Ground Search Teams (GST) are formed, briefed and dispatched towards the initial locational data provided by the AFRCC. As a GST moves along its designated route it uses its hand-held radio-finding-equipment to also search for the ELT’s signal. The search aircraft can communicate directly with the GST and provide it with updated, Becker-derived locational information.

Once the search aircraft has determined the optimal location of the ELT’s signal it orbits the area and directs the GST to that spot. The GST them dismounts and using its hand-held RDF gear pinpoints the ELT’s location and moves in to provide assistance or to secure the area and await the arrival of law enforcement and first responders.

As South Dakota shares a border with five other states there are times when an ELT search may involve CAP Wings of other states in a cooperative search and rescue effort or, in some cases South Dakota Wing may resolve an ELT search by entering an adjacent state.

An example of a multi-Wing search mission
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came in late November 2014. A pilot, a resident of
Lead, SD was reported missing and his aircraft was
not at the Spearfish airport. On the presumption
that he was out flying, the South Dakota Wing was
alerted by the AFRCC and, as Spearfish is close to
the Wyoming state line Wyoming Wing was also
put on alert. Each Wing launched aircraft to search
for the missing aircraft’s ELT. In addition, the CAP
squadron in Spearfish formed a Ground Search
Team which was sent into Wyoming based on ini-
tial locational data. The Wyoming Wing and South
Dakota Wing aircraft were able to narrow the search
area and, with CAP cell phone forensic support,
ultimately spotted the aircraft crash site in south-
eastern Montana near the Wyoming border. The
South Dakota Wing GST travelled from Spearfish
into Wyoming and ultimately into Montana where
they were first on the scene and worked with the
local sheriff to secure the accident site.

An out-of-state search mission came more recently.
On 6 April 2015, the AFRCC put South Dakota Wing
on alert as aircraft coming into Sioux Falls reported
hearing the signal from a 121.5 MHz ELT. Initial
locational data was vague citing southeast South
Dakota, southwest Minnesota and northwest Iowa.
South Dakota Wing launched an aircraft which almost
immediately picked up the ELT’s signal. Two Ground
Search Teams, one from the squadron in Brookings
and one from the squadron in Sioux Falls were formed
and dispatched to travel search routes in the area also
hunting for the signal. The CAP aircraft used its Becker
to quickly ascertain that the ELT’s signal was coming
from the area of Larchwood, IA. Further aerial search
work pinpointed the ELT as coming from an airstrip
near Larchwood. The airstrip manager was contacted
and it was discovered that the ELT signal was coming
from an aircraft there that had experienced a hard land-
ing. The manager then went out and silenced the ELT.
With the mission successfully accomplished the CAP
aircraft and the two Ground Search Teams returned to
their bases and stood down.

The Civil Air Patrol’s South Dakota Wing stands
ready to carry out its emergency services missions by
day or by night to help safeguard the lives, health
and welfare of the citizens of this great state. 😊
Wings of Our Founders –
1942 CAP Piper J-3 Cub

Lt. Col. Gary W. Rae, CAP
Wing Chaplain

My love of aviation is part of the Rae family’s DNA. Both Mom and Dad were in B-24 bombers in World War II. Mom was a mechanic on the Norden and Sperry bombsights and Dad was a tail gunner. I grew up on New York’s Long Island where Dad would preserve the last grass airstrip on the island from commercial growth. I had a chance to fly in a 1929 Fleet, Navy SNJ, Stearman, and more. Dad loved to build balsa wood model airplanes. Perhaps it was a prelude to his building a full scale replica of a 1929 Petenpol Sport Aircraft in his garage.

A few years back as we were going through Dad’s things in preparation for moving him to an assisted living facility when we found a CAP shoulder patch. We learned he had been in CAP in 1942, prior to his entering the U.S. Army Air Forces (forerunner of the USAF) in August of 1943. His shoulder patch will soon be on my recreation of a 1942-style CAP officer’s uniform that I will wear to promote CAP’s 75th Anniversary in 2016. Although I had been a model airplane builder in my youth, 40 years of ministry kept me from pursuing it again until I retired. Dad’s CAP patch inspired me to make my first serious model, a 1942 Piper J-3 Cub; one of the planes the German’s cursed whenever they were on submarine patrol along the U.S. coast.

Building a 6-foot wingspan (1/6 scale) begins with studying the plans for days. Next I created a workspace large enough to accommodate the large wing and fuselage. Foam board on a table works great because it is flat and I can stick T-Pins into it. Wax paper is essential on top of the plans to protect them when I glue the spars and ribs together. Other essential tools include good lighting, a supply of Xacto knives, mini-saws, carpenter’s glue, paint brushes, paints, thinners, sandpaper and a good straight edge ruler. I covered my wooden frames with monocoat, a heat shrink cover not all that different than the Ceconite used on modern day rag aircraft. A special iron attaches and shrinks the fabric like skin. But the greatest tools are patience in the process and willingness to get lost in the details. Creativity helps; the plans don’t always
tell you how to make a cockpit or doors that open. Mistakes happen so you learn how to camouflage them, though I always see them.

The birth of my J-3 began with the end goal in mind. A picture is in front of me. It will be yellow with doors that open, a 1/6 scale pilot (Ted Williams), and 1942 CAP markings made for the wings. I study the National CAP History site to learn exactly where those marking are to be placed. Not everything comes in the kit. The web helps me search for scaled cylinders to put on the cowling, find a wood propeller I can attach, get real air filled tires and more. NC50720 took six months in 2014 to build. The rest is patience, persistence and practice. I began with the wings, the elevators and rudder sections before moving on to the fuselage. There I modified the plans to include a cockpit. Many a day I would cough on the balsa dust. The wing’s leading edge and rounded surfaces all required careful shaping. The spars in the wings and the landing gear were reinforced with bass wood or plywood and then epoxied for strength. Over the months the pieces slowly came together. The birth of my J-3 began with the goal in mind. I substituted aluminum struts found at a hobby store for the bass wood struts. I learned how to spray and paint. The most difficult part was learning how to get wrinkles out of the mono-cote covering on curved surfaces. The model, which is for display only and not intended to fly, cost about $300 to make by the time you buy the kit, paint, tools, covering and special markings.

Today many people like to buy “Ready to Fly” (RTF) models. Not me! I wanted my 1942 Piper J-3 Cub to be a faithfully scaled model, a work of art and to tell the history of CAP in the early days. My model connects me to CAP history.

In my mind’s eye I see myself sitting in the drafty cockpit of a Piper J-3. My aircraft weighs a mere 765 lbs. empty. Its top speed was 80 MPH. It held two persons in tandem. Early models boasted a 40HP engine that was increased to 65HP during the war. I try to imagine what it must have been like to leave the airfield in Atlantic City, New Jersey or Mitchell Field on Long Island and to fly out over the Atlantic Ocean. As my Continental engine throttles up, the plane bumps, zigs and zags as it taxis along the grass strip. I turn it into the wind, give it full power and hold the stick in my gut for the first few seconds until I can gently ease it forward to bring the tail up. She gathers speed. I hold it to the runway until it’s ready to leap into the air. With a slight pull back on the stick, the engine chews into the sea coast air, the wings waiver as I get the feel of flight. I bank left towards the sea and search the ocean with expectation, looking for the silhouette of a German Unterseeboot (submarine). U-Boats filled our eastern coastal waters in search of merchant supply ships travelling up and down the coast and those bound for Europe. With limited communications, in vulnerable little aircraft, CAP’s men and women gave our nation time to build up its air forces, chased the U-boats from our shores, and protected vital supply lines.

With so many Piper J-3 Cubs being produced and owned by civilians it had become the primary trainer for the Civilian Pilot Training Program by the time World War II broke out. During the war it was one of the most common aircraft used by the newly formed Civil Air Patrol. Like so many in those days, from Rosie the Riveter to the CAP men and women who towed targets for antiaircraft gunners, couriered parts and personnel for the war industry, flew border patrol, acted as skywatch for forest fires, or those who stood on rooftops as air raid wardens, all did their part. 🚦
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The cadet cyber-security team of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron won second place in the national finals of the Air Force Association’s seventh annual CyberPatriot Competition held in Washington, D.C. from 11-15 March. In addition, they were the top Civil Air Patrol team in the competition.

The team from Brookings competed in the “All Service Division” national finals for the fourth year in a row against teams from the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Junior ROTC programs, the Naval Sea Cadet Corps and the Civil Air Patrol. In CyberPatriot-VII 1,007 teams competed in the All Services Division, 400 teams from CAP units. Only the top two teams from each organization in the All Services Division got to go to the national finals. “We are extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Big Sioux squadron in their pursuit of being the top team in the competition. A lot of hard work and dedication goes into preparation for this competition and to be the top Civil Air Patrol team in the nation is no easy feat.” Said Colonel John Seten, the Wing Commander of the South Dakota Civil Air Patrol.

In the national finals 28 teams, 13 from the All Service Division, competed to defend virtual networks and mobile devices from a professional aggressor team. The national finalists also faced off in four additional competition components: the Digital Cyber Crime Scene Challenge from the Digital Forensic Consortium, the Cisco Networking Challenge, the Leidos Digital Forensics Challenge and a Mobile Application Challenge hosted by AT&T. The teams were scored on how quickly and effectively they established and maintained secure networks.

Team Big Sioux consists of Team Captain Cadet Maj. Joshua Klosterman of Brandon, Cadet 2nd Lt. Chris Dinnel, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Jaden Petersen and Cadet Tech. Sgt. Nathaniel Fleet, all from Lake Benton, MN, and Cadet 2nd Lt. Laura Rudnik of Brookings. The team is coached by Capt. Shannon Hofer of Hendricks, MN, who is the commander of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron and Wing Director of Information Technology and Web Security Administrator. The team was mentored by Cadet Capt. Tyler Gross of Volga.

CyberPatriot VII began last October with more than 2,100 teams from all 50 states, Canada and Department of Defense dependent schools in Europe and the Pacific. After two months of rigorous online challenges, the Open Division and All Service Division teams were divided into three tiers: Platinum, Gold and Silver. Team Big Sioux was placed in the Platinum Tier. The teams continued to compete within their tiers for state awards and advancement to the regional/category round. Only teams in the top Platinum tier were eligible to advance to national finals competition.
David Stockinger is South Dakota Wing’s first and so far only senior member to hold CAP noncommissioned officer (NCO) rank. When David joined the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron in April 2012 he entered into the rank system for CAP senior members. After a probationary period he was promoted to the rank of Second Lieutenant in October 2012.

At the time David joined CAP he was on active duty with the South Dakota Air National Guard and was advancing through their rank structure as an enlisted man. In 2015, David had eight years of service with the SDANG and had reached the rank of Staff Sergeant (SSgt).

In August 2014, with the approval of its executive agency, the U.S. Air Force, CAP modified its NCO rank system for senior members with the publication of a revised version of CAP Regulation 35-5, CAP Officer and Noncommissioned Officer Appointments and Promotions. Under the old system CAP had NCO ranks for senior members. However, the old system did not allow for promotion within the NCO ranks. If you entered CAP and opted for NCO rank then that was the rank you held throughout your CAP service. The revised system contains the criteria for promotion within the NCO ranks. Now one can advance from the entry grade of Staff Sergeant to the top NCO grade of Chief Master Sergeant.

When David became aware of this change he submitted paperwork to be reduced in grade from Lieutenant to Staff Sergeant to match his SDANG rank. On his paperwork he indicated that he would like to continue his CAP service as an NCO. As David looks forward to promotion through the SDANG NCO ranks he can now look forward to advancing to the equivalent grade in the CAP NCO rank system as he gains experience, training and longevity in CAP.
Wing Legislative Day at the State Capitol

By Maj. Bruce Kipp, CAP
Wing PAO

11 February was South Dakota Wing’s “Legislative Day” at the State Capitol. Some 50 officers and cadets representing five squadrons converged on the state capitol. There they met with Governor Daugaard and posed with him on the Grand Staircase of the Capitol Rotunda. Afterwards the SDWG members attended the legislative sessions of the House and Senate where they received special recognition when legislators of both houses gave the SDWG members a standing ovation.

During the afternoon break in the legislative sessions SDWG hosted a snack for the legislators. 1st Lt. Rachel Kuecker arranged for cupcakes decorated with CAP insignia. While mingling with the legislators the officers and cadets handed out informational materials about SDWG and CAP and spoke with them about the Civil Air Patrol and what South Dakota Wing does for our communities, our counties and the state.

Wing Commander, Col. John Seten commented, “The Legislative Day for Civil Air Patrol is a great way for us to tell our story to the legislators. We are able to brief them on what we’ve done for the past year and answer any questions that they may have about our organization. We also managed to recruit many new members into our legislative squadron. We always look forward to our trip to Pierre.”

Several SDWG officers were key to the success of this event. Kudos to former state representative 2nd Lt. Manny Steele who met with his former colleagues and invited them to join CAP’s State Legislative Squadron. Kudos also go to Maj. David Small Jr. for arranging transportation, event scheduling and photography, and to Maj. Todd Epp for arranging the event itself.

Officers and cadets of the South Dakota Wing of the Civil Air Patrol pose with Gov. Daugaard on the Grand Staircase of the Capitol Rotunda.
The winter of 2014/2015 was not a typical South Dakota winter. Yes, it was cold, and yes it was windy but what was lacking in many places was snow. Having completed a successful Cadet Leadership School the previous day approximately 20 cadets from all squadrons save one trained in the basic skills of winter survival in an emergency situation.

First and foremost, 1st Lt. Dan Schneider of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, a professional firefighter, explained that maintaining a positive attitude greatly improves a person’s chance of sur-

2015 SDWG winter survival training participants.
vival. Our brain is our best survival resource.

Sunday, 15 February, was cold and blustery. Lt. Dan illustrated how one can keep warm in adverse weather with minimal equipment from a 24-hour pack. Organized into small groups the cadets demonstrated their recent learning by safely starting small fires using natural materials they scavenged and items from their 24-hour packs. Under his watchful eye each group started a fire and built it into about a 24” sustaining blaze that could be fed indefinitely to keep everyone warm. Afterwards, each fire was carefully extinguished and then double checked to ensure there was no danger of an uncontrolled event later.

Schneider then demonstrated how to build a shelter from wind and weather using only sticks, bushes and items from a 24-hour pack, and by taking advantage of natural wind breaks. He demonstrated that making a shelter behind a natural wind break allows it to be much warmer and more durable than one built out in the open. The cadets then scavenged for shelter building materials and built a functional emergency shelter.

By noon everyone was colder but wiser and ready to head home in the warm, toasty CAP vans.

**OBSERVE—THINK—REACT**

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**CGM Update**

Continued from page 7…

Washington, D.C. for the ceremony last December and was presented her husband’s CGM by Gen. Vazquez.

South Dakota Congresswoman Kristi Noem presented the CGM to the family of Earl Wilkinson at a ceremony on 8 April at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City. It was received on behalf of the family by his grandson Tom Senesac.

South Dakota Congresswoman Noem presented the CGM to the family of John G. “Jack” Rae Jr. at a ceremony on 18 April during the South Dakota Wing Conference in Pierre. It was received on behalf of the family by his son Gary W. Rae who is a CAP Lieutenant Colonel and the South Dakota Wing Chaplain.

Henkin, Brehe and the Jeffries family will be presented with the CGM at ceremonies to be held in South Dakota at a later date.

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A CAP aircraft closes in on a German submarine off the U.S. coast during World War II.
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In This Issue . . .

Cessna-172 from Skyhawk to Glasshawk 3

Commander’s Corner 5

CAP Congressional Gold Medal Update 7

1943 Jacob’s Aircraft advertisement 9

South Dakota Public Television 11

Exercise Constant Watch-15 13

3,000 Hours, An Aviation Milestone 14

Fill ‘er Up, Sir? 15

From CAP Cadet to Navy Seaman 17

Let’s Fly Mom 18

Mountain Fury 21

National Cadet Special Activity 24

Heraldry of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron 27

Starlab Inflatable Planatarium 29

2015 Joint Dakotas Encampment 31

I Want You 36

COVER PHOTO: Cessna-172 “Glasshawk” - South Dakota Wing’s Newest Search and Rescue Aviation Asset Rae family by SD Congresswoman Kristi Noem.
We proudly support the lifesaving efforts of our Civil Air Patrol. Their dedication to the ongoing mission of providing air search for downed and missing aircraft is especially appreciated. Thanks and good luck!
In September of 2014, the South Dakota Wing received some good news. CAP National Headquarters gave its approval for a complete overhaul, modernization and upgrade of one of our Cessna-172 “Skyhawk” aircraft to the Technologically Advanced Aircraft (TAA) Standard. Many thanks to Wing Maintenance Officer Maj. E. W. Filler of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings who worked closely with NHQ Logistics to get the aircraft into refurbishment.

On 17 September 2014, Capt. Josh Hall and Lt. Ryan Jones, both of Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City, took off in the Cessna-172 headed to Carson City, NV to drop off the airplane at the upgrade depot. After dealing with an unexpected runway closure, the two pilots delivered the aircraft to Carson City Air Services. The work on our Cessna-172 was expected to take up to a year to complete.

Our aircraft underwent a complete makeover. It received a new paint job, a new interior, and an all-new Garmin G500 “glass” avionics suite, and more. The Garmin G500, much like its big brother G1000 avionics found in our Cessna-182s, features primary and multifunction displays, coupled with a new Garmin GTN-650 GPS/NavCom that allows for more exacting navigation, complex instrument flight rules procedures, autopilot linkage and increased situational awareness for aircrews.

Almost one year later, on 31 August 2015,
Wing Vice Commander Lt. Col. Rick Larson and Capt. Neil Schmid of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron went to Carson City to retrieve our newly refurbished Cessna-172, Registration Number N97947. The aircraft will be assigned to the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron and based there.

Although the official name of the aircraft is the Cessna-172 “Skyhawk”, Lt. Col. Larson informally dubbed the refurbished aircraft the “Glasshawk” in recognition of the instrument panel change from the old gauges to the new flat panel displays.

The three pilots trained on the new “Glasshawk” systems before they flew the aircraft back to Sioux Falls. The TAA upgrade will require proficiency and familiarization training for South Dakota Wing aircrew. The initial training took place from 4 to 6 September when CAP aircrew members from Sioux Falls Composite Squadron took to the skies to put the aircraft through its paces.

The refurbished Cessna-172 “Glasshawk” will add another technologically advanced search and rescue asset to South Dakota Wing’s two Garmin G1000-equipped Cessna-182s.
Commander’s Corner

By Col. John Seten, CAP
South Dakota Wing Commander

When I received the reminder that my article for this magazine was due soon I realized that I was a short timer in the position of Wing Commander for SD. I assumed command in June of 2012 and will have completed my four year term this coming June. It’s hard to believe it’s been that long. Time truly flies when you’re having fun. What a great group of people I’ve gotten to work with.

It’s been a busy summer in the SD Wing. Just when it seems like things are going to slow down, something new pops onto our RADAR screen and we’re off and running once again.

We’ve been honored to have found more recipients for the Congressional Gold Medal that Congress awarded to Civil Air Patrol members that served in CAP during World War II. We continue to follow leads on eligible past members and are busy scheduling two more ceremonies to be held at Sioux Falls and Rapid City. It’s fun to talk to the recipients and their families and to hear the stories of how they helped during the war. We look forward to finding a few more that are eligible for the medal so we can properly honor them as well.

We worked hard for the State of SD Game Fish and Parks as well as the South Dakota State University as we flew their trackers around the state and assisted them with finding the various animal species that they are studying. Deer, Elk, Mountain Lion, Mountain Sheep and Bobcats as well as a few other species that I’m probably forgetting about. We thank them for their business and enjoy working with them. It is estimated that we flew over 35,000 nautical miles supporting the animal mission in FY 15. Wow!!

We also completed successful Low Level Route Survey missions and air intercept missions for both the SD Air National Guard and Ellsworth Air Force Base covering approximately 13,000 nautical miles in FY 15. These missions bring a great sense of pride to all that participate as we know that it makes a difference in the protection of our nation’s skies.

It was South Dakota’s turn to host the Joint Dakotas Encampment and we did so at the wonderful Camp Rapid National Guard facilities. We had a good turnout and some very meaningful training during the encampment. I can always tell when an encampment goes well by both the feedback I receive afterwards and the amount of mishap reports I have to process. Feedback was positive and mishap reports were to a minimum.

We’ve been informed that an interim budget has been approved in congress so we can continue with our training events right away after 1 October. We’ve already received an allocation of funds for pilot proficiency flying and cadet orientation flights. Let’s take advantage of these great programs and also our upcoming training exercises.

I could go on and on with all of the accomplishments that our wing has experienced throughout the past few years. Our members are the best there are. While we are not a large wing, we are a very productive wing and don’t think what we’re doing goes unnoticed. Those working for the National HQ know who we are and they appreciate all that we do. Keep up the good work and I look forward to leading you for another few months. ☺
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The Civil Air Patrol Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) became law on 14 May 2014 when the bill authorizing the award was signed by President Obama. The CGM recognizes and honors the service and sacrifice of more than 120,000 men, women and teens who joined the Civil Air Patrol immediately before or during World War II.

Wartime CAP members helped guard our coastlines to protect our nation’s vital shipping lanes, patrolled our borders, watched for forest fires, conducted search and rescue missions and disaster relief tasks, operated an extensive military air courier service, helped train military personnel and carried out a wide variety of important domestic military and civil defense missions. By the end of 1943, CAP had flown over 86,000 missions totaling over 244,000 hours and more than 24 million miles. The missions were not without risk. 74 CAP coastal patrol planes crashed into the sea with the loss of 26 CAP personnel.

The initial presentation ceremony took place in Washington, DC on 10 December 2014. Speaker of the House John Boehner presented the medal to CAP National Commander Major-General Joseph Vazquez and former U.S. Representative Lester Wolff who himself was a WWII member of the CAP. Attending the presentation ceremony were the majority and minority leaders of the House and Senate. That evening a gala celebration was held where Maj. Gen. Vazquez personally presented CGMs to more than 100 WWII CAP veterans or to family members of those no longer with us.

After the national ceremony each CAP Wing was tasked to continue to seek out individuals eligible for the CGM. To date South Dakota Wing has identified nine individuals. The family of one
South Dakota CAP veteran received his CGM at the national ceremony. Five South Dakota WWII CAP veterans have been presented their CGM at in-state ceremonies by dignitaries such as Governor Dennis Daugaard, U.S. Senator Mike Rounds, and U.S. Representative Kristi Noem.

Most recently presentation ceremonies were held for Lois Marco Schmidt and Pauline Hanson Brehe. More than 70 years ago, two young women from South Dakota decided they wanted to do something to help their country during World War II. Pauline Hanson Brehe of Pierre and Lois Marso Schmidt of Agar were part of a small group of women who served in the South Dakota Civil Air Patrol during the war; something most girls weren’t doing in the 1940s. A lot has changed in the past seven decades, but their service hasn’t been forgotten. On 24 August, Gov. Dennis Daugaard presented bronze replicas of the Congressional Gold Medals to Pauline and Lois for their WWII CAP service.

Lois and Pauline were founding members of the Pierre Composite Squadron and among the first women in not just South Dakota but the United States to become CAP members.

Pauline joined the Civil Air Patrol in 1942. For her it was a way to help her country during a time of war. She served as an adult member of the Pierre Squadron as an administrative officer with the grade of First Sargent. “We had to learn to identify all the aircrafts - our own, German and Japanese. So in case they flew over we would know what they were,” she recalled. In March 1945, she enlisted in the U.S. Army to serve as a Medical Surgical Technician. The day after the CGM ceremony Pauline celebrated her 88th birthday.

Lois joined the Civil Air Patrol, Pierre Squadron, as a Cadet at the age of 16 in 1943. She returned to CAP in the 1969 and attained the rank of Lt. Colonel, which she holds today. Lois says it was her love of airplanes that led her to join CAP. “It was all study at that time. I still have my Civil Air Patrol book,” she said.

Governor Daugaard said during the ceremony at the state Capitol that he was glad to honor the women for helping create a great legacy of service to the nation.

Presentation ceremonies are currently being planned for Walter Wilson and Thomas Roberts. We are especially pleased to present the CGM to the family of CAP Lieutenant Colonel Roberts. He was the first commander of the South Dakota Wing from its formation in 1 December 1941 throughout the war until 15 October 1945.
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March 29, 2105 was a special day for SDWG. That afternoon several members of the wing were interviewed on camera by a crew from South Dakota Public Broadcasting for the television program “Dakota Life”. Paul Ebsen, an associate producer from SDPB is very enthusiastic about CAP and interested in our Wing’s history. Wing Commander Col. John Seten addressed CAP’s aviation, missions, funding, and history. Wing Chaplain Lt. Col. Gary Rae, dressed in his WWII-era CAP uniform, addressed CAP’s WWII history and current cadet programs. Capt. Neil Schmid, of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron also addressed aviation and CAP operations. Wing Historian and Government Relations Advisor Maj. Todd Epp who arranged and coordinated the event also spoke about the history of the CAP and of the South Dakota Wing. The Sioux Falls based Cessna-172 and “glass cockpit” Cessna-182 were in the hangar for filming. Later Maj. Todd Epp commented, “This is a great opportunity for the Wing to get some excellent exposure and celebrate what we have done and what we do.”

In addition, Chaplain Rae spoke about his dad, John “Jack” Rae Jr., who was a WWII era CAP sub-hunter from Pennsylvania. He flew patrol missions out of CAP’s base in Atlantic City. On his father’s behalf Chaplain Rae was presented a Congressional Gold Medal from South Dakota’s U.S. Representative Kristi Noem at the wing conference in April posthumously recognizing his father’s courage. The segment SDPB shot in Sioux Falls aired on Dakota Life at 8 p.m. on 2 April on SDPB-1. It is available online at sdpb.org.
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EXERCISE “CONSTANT WATCH-15”

By Capt. Jerry Gabert, CAP
Wing Communications Officer

The South Dakota Wing participated in the Civil Air Patrol’s National Communications Exercise “Constant Watch 15” on Friday and Saturday, the 15th and 16th of May. This exercise is held annually to test CAP’s ability to pass messages throughout the nation on long-range high frequency (HF) radio. This year we were also allowed to pass messages from HF operators to other units over short range very high frequency (VHF) radios. The South Dakota Wing’s portion of the exercise was organized and directed by Capt. Jerry Gabert, Wing Director of Communications.

The overall exercise began on the afternoon of 15 May Friday. Several SDWG radio operators participated on Friday afternoon and evening. Capt. Jerry Gabert and Lt. Rob Hinkhouse of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, checked in on an HF radio in Sioux Falls. Lt. Todd Dravland of Pierre Composite Squadron checked in on his HF radio in Pierre. SM Jeff Shawd of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron operated his HF radio in Valley Springs and took several Whiskey Tango (numerically encoded) messages and successfully entered them into the CAP computer system. Lt. Col. Dave Jefferies of Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City checked in from his mobile HF radio and took Whiskey Tango messages while also volunteering with the Red Cross at Delmont, SD. The weather conditions were not conducive for HF reception due to the thunderstorms passing through the western part of the state but we still managed to successfully pass some messages.

Capt. Gabert and Lt. Hinkhouse were also busy on Friday night planning messages to send on Saturday. They made up a practice decoder to simulate sending coded messages and then formulated several coded messages.

On Saturday morning the exercise was expanded to include an airborne radio signal repeater. The airborne repeater was carried in the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron’s Cessna-182 piloted by Capt. Neil Schmid with Maj. Elliott Filler as the Mission Observer. Through the airborne radio signal repeater we were able to establish communications from Sioux Falls to Brookings, from Brookings to Valley Springs, from Valley Springs to Sioux Falls, and from Pierre to Delmont.


Continued on page . . .
3,000 HOURS, AN AVIATION MILESTONE

By Maj. Bruce Kipp, CAP
SDWG Public Affairs Officer

Civil Air Patrol pilot Lt. Col. Greg Lair, a resident of Sioux Falls and member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron of CAP’s South Dakota Wing, achieved a significant aviation milestone. In his day job, Greg is USAF Colonel Lair, Operations Group Commander of the 114th Fighter Wing of the SDANG.

In March he and USAF Lt. Col. Eric Knutson, completed 3,000 career flight hours in the F-16 Fighting Falcon when they landed after a training sortie at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls. Upon landing they were met by family members, friends and SDANG colleagues who congratulated them. 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. In addition to Col. Lair and Lt. Col. Knutson, the commander of the 175th Fighter Squadron, Lt. Col. Todd Sheridan, is the only other current member of the SDANG to have reached this milestone.

“The South Dakota Wing of the Civil Air Patrol is honored to have Lt. Col. Lair as a member. His experience as an Air Force pilot is of great value to our organization.” said Colonel John Seten the Wing Commander for the SD Civil Air Patrol.

When not on duty with the South Dakota Air National Guard or flying for the Civil Air Patrol, Greg Lair is a pilot for United Airlines. USAF Lt. Col. Eric Knutson is Chief of Safety at the SDANG 114th Fighter Wing.

Col. Lair and daughter Julia, currently a CAP Cadet Senior Master Sgt., who assisted in the wetting down ceremony for her father.

Lt. Col. Knutson (left) and Col. Lair (right) congratulate each other after landing.
From 1992 to 1993, I was a U.S. Air Force Captain stationed at Kunsan Air Base in the Republic of Korea. I had an F-16 assigned to me. In keeping with tradition my name was painted on the canopy frame as pilot. The aircraft tail number was 86-0322.

Sometime after I left South Korea my F-16 was transferred to Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska. There it was assigned to the 18th Aggressor Squadron of the 354th fighter Wing and repainted in colors that mimic Russian fighter jets. The Aggressor Squadron flies in the style of foreign air forces to train USAF combat pilots and joint and allied aircrews.
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A few months back in 2015, my middle son, currently an Air Force Captain and pilot of a KC-135R tanker, was on temporary duty at Eielson AFB. While there he flew a mission that included refueling Aggressor Squadron F-16, Tail Number 0322, not knowing it previously was my jet.

My son happened to call to me during his temporary duty at Eielson AFB. Knowing that my F-16 had been transferred there I told him to keep an eye out for my former jet. He shuffled through some paperwork then remarked that he had refueled “my” F-16 a few days earlier.

He was able to coordinate with the base photo shop and they took some pictures of him next to the jet on the ramp.

A thousand of miles apart and 23 years in the making, my jet with my son next to it, encountered on a chance visit. What were the odds?

I retired from the Air Force as a Lieutenant Colonel. When I joined CAP they counted much of my military service and assigned me a joining date of December 1997. Based on my prior military experience I expect shortly to be appointed to the grade of CAP Lieutenant Colonel. All three of our sons currently serve in the military and all three have been in the Civil Air Patrol.

FROM CAP CADET TO NAVY SEAMAN

By Lt. Col. Linda Buechler, CAP
Wing Director of Cadet Programs

Lt. Col. Linda Buechler and family attended her grandson’s (Brandon Purkapile) graduation from Great Lakes Naval Training Center, Chicago, Ill, on Friday, September 4, 2015. Seaman Recruit Purkapile was a cadet member of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron from 2008-2009 with the rank of Cadet Airman. Brandon said CAP training through encampment, cadet curriculum, and the physical training helped him prepare for training with the Navy and military life.

After some additional training Brandon will go to the fleet for a month to decide what his military occupational specialty will be. Currently he is thinking of training as a Gunner’s Mate. The training focuses on the operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of naval guns, missile launchers and torpedoes as well as a strong emphasis on basic explosives, guidance and tracking systems, small arms, Naval ammunition classification, and safety. Upon completion of this training, seamen often continue on to a specialized school, where they learn a particular weapons system.
While other teenagers were learning how to drive, Brandon West was learning to fly. Now, the Brandon Valley High School graduate is on a quest to fly to all 72 public-use airports in South Dakota. Only five pilots have completed that feat since the South Dakota Pilots Association started its “FLY South Dakota Airports!” award program in 2010. “He would be by far the youngest person to complete it,” said Steve Hamilton, executive director of the South Dakota Pilots Association. The average time it takes to complete the program is three to four years.

West isn’t flying alone. His mother, CAP Capt. Karla West, has been along for every takeoff and landing. They were introduced to Civil Air Patrol when Brandon was thirteen years old. He went to his first meeting and was hooked. According to Karla, “As we both learned more about this unique organization that trained its members in search and rescue, we jumped in with both feet.”

Each Civil Air Patrol cadet is offered 10 orientation flights before he or she turns 18. Most cadets spread their flights over several years, but Brandon, who was 13 at the time, took much less time. Within the first month Brandon flew on his first orientation flight in a small airplane and was hooked on flying.

The subject of flying lessons came up after that first flight but it was not until his second year of high school that he actively began to pursue this dream. We went to Legacy Aviation, a flight school in Tea, SD to learn more about flying lessons. There is no minimum age required for flight lessons, but the Federal Aviation Administration
does require students to be at least 16 before taking solo flights and at least 17 before getting a private pilot’s license. Brandon began training for his private pilot’s license in June 2013 at age 16, thanks in large part to a CAP flight scholarship.

His flight instructor, Jordan Hall, said he was the first person to give Brandon an orientation flight in the Civil Air Patrol. After receiving his private pilot’s license in September 2013, Brandon went to work for Hall at Legacy Aviation in Tea, where he still works.

Earning a private pilot’s license was only the first step for Brandon. Having just passed his instrument rating he is now looking forward to getting his commercial rating.

As the mom who sat at the airport observing his every take-off and landing, I was honored, but a little scared, to be the first passenger with him after he received his license. I was amazed to see him in the pilot’s seat; he was not the typical teenager, but a serious young man - a pilot who understood the responsibility that comes with being in control of an aircraft.

Next was his goal of being certified to fly for the Civil Air Patrol. He completed the numerous requirements to become qualified to fly CAP aircraft. After 100 hours of flying he qualified as a CAP transport mission pilot. Now he is looking forward to qualifying as a CAP Search and Rescue Mission Pilot.

Working at Legacy Aviation and being in CAP has given Brandon opportunities that many young people never experience. Many of the pilots he met at work have offered him invaluable advice, and some have even trusted him to fly their planes. One such adventure stands out: after an afternoon of flying, we went to chat with some of his mentors at the airport, and they offered us a ride in their Beechcraft A36 Bonanza (the Cadillac of the skies). Not being one to pass up a ride in a plane, Brandon eagerly accepted. As we were getting in the plane, the owner stopped Brandon and said, “You’re pilot-in-command.” Never have I seen a bigger smile on his face than when his friend gave him such an awesome experience.

As most Moms can tell you, finding things to do together with a teenage boy is not easy; most teenagers want to spend as little time with their Mom as possible. I am proud to say that my son is not that typical teenager. For my birthday he bought me a pink flying headset and said “let’s fly Mom.”

As his High School graduation approached, we struggled to decide what to get him knowing all he wanted was to fly. I had heard about the “Fly South Dakota Airports” program from a fellow CAP member who had just completed it and it sounded interesting. The program is sponsored by the South Dakota Pilots Association. The program has three levels: Bronze for landing at 20 airports, silver for landing at 40 airports, and gold for landing at all 72 of South Dakota’s public-use airports. In addition there are requirements for attendance at FAA aviation safety seminars and visits to South Dakota museums that have aviation themed displays. A stamp and signature is entered into a logbook called a “passport” at each airport, seminar and museum.

As graduation rolled around, he decided to set forth on the journey to complete the program. We took a major trip to the west side of the state this past summer landing at 13 airports all over the Black Hills. The most interesting airport was the small one inside Custer State Park. Landing with herds of buffalo just to the side of us was an amazing experience. At the time I write this, we have landed at 39 airports. One more and Brandon qualifies for the Silver Level Award.

Brandon has been very lucky in realizing his dream, thanks in large part to the support system in CAP and working at a job that gives him access to numerous aviation learning opportunities as well as the money to spend on his passion. “I absolutely love it,” Brandon said.

He hopes to inspire other young people to never give up on their dream of taking to the skies. The hobby of flying does take a tremendous amount of time and money but it is well worth the effort. 🛩️
As a resident of South Dakota, Dave Satterlee is proud to support The Civil Air Patrol of South Dakota and all of their lifesaving efforts!
In mid-September, eleven Civil Air Patrol pilots from across the South Dakota Wing participated in “Mountain Fury”, CAP’s Mountain Search Pilot Course. The purpose of the course was to train CAP Mission Pilots to be mountain-qualified CAP Mission Pilots. The activity was directed by Maj. Craig Goodrich, Commander of the Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City. Day one and part of day two were spent in classes on the physics, skills, techniques and perils of mountain flying. The classroom training was at the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron Headquarters in Custer. Classroom instruction was held on high altitude flying by Capt. Josh Hall, mountain weather by Maj. Craig Goodrich, mountain flying by Col. Mike Beason and mountain searching by Capt. Matt Meert.

The rest of day two and day three were spent flying training sorties. Flight operations were at the Custer County Airport at Custer. Each mission pilot flew four mission training sorties. Although the elevation of the Black Hills of South Dakota do not provide the kind of mountainous terrain that other mountain states provide, many of the
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sorties were flown at 10,000 feet with reduced power settings to simulate “real” mountain flying. Plus, Custer County Airport and Custer State Park Airport are no walk-in-the-park - a pilot must be thinking about mountain flying to safely operate in and out of these challenging airports. A total of 25 sorties were flown during the training with seven of the pilots earning or renewing their Mountain Flying Certification.

Capt. Kurt Johnson of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, one of the mission pilots that went through the training said, “I personally gained a great deal of experience and respect for operating safely in “hot and high” environments. Our aircraft take on a whole new set of flight characteristics under these conditions. As pilots, we all read about this...but, the practical experience provided in this clinic was priceless! I feel no mission pilot should fly in mountainous terrain without this training and practical experience!”

Maj. Goodrich remarked, “Everyone stepped in to help with meals, cleanup, sortie management, and watching over safety. I especially want to thank the First Baptist Church of Custer, who operates Camp Victory, across the road from the airport, for their hospitality in allowing us to use their facilities for lodging and meals. The nearly perfect weather, camaraderie, and storytelling around the campfire each night helped make this weekend a great event.”

Many practice coded messages were sent between Sioux Falls, Brookings and Valley Springs. The messages were then deciphered by the receiving station and verified by the sending station. Overall this was a very successful communications exercise. There were a few unexpected obstacles we needed to work around such as the stormy weather, a few technical difficulties, and one of our key HF operators being called for Red Cross disaster duties. Lt. Col. Jefferies found a way around that by operating the mobile HF radio in his vehicle when he was not on his Red Cross duty shift. Thanks to all who participated and hope to expand our participation in the Constant Watch exercise next year.
From 6 July to August, I was at U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California attending the Engineering-Technology Academy in Robotics, one of CAP’s National Cadet Special Activities (NCSA) emphasizing where science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). This is the first year that this robotics NCSA has existed; it was set up by Activities Director CAP Lt. Col. John DiGiantomasso. The purpose of the activity was to learn the basics of robotics, programming, construction and support.

I arrived at the airport where there were senior members waiting to pick up cadets as they showed up. Once we got to Camp Pendleton we were given our NCSA t-shirts and assigned to one of six teams (each consisted of four students and one team lead, an experienced cadet mentor).

Over the course of the week we:

- Explored techniques to engineer solid and durable structures
- Built custom bridges that optimized load capability and weight, and tested them to point of failure
- Experimented with gearing for torque and speed
- Constructed linkages to convert motion from one form to another
- Adapted a common robotic platform to per-
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Utilize Computer Aided Design software to experiment, prototype, and document our work
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“Robot Party”
Designed and built a robotic fly-by-wire airplane cockpit demonstrator
Engineered, constructed, and operated a “Combat Robot” to try to defeat all our rivals in the ring
The first activities that we did included learning about origami and building balsa wood bridges.
After that each team received an identical set of state-of-the-art “Mindstorms EV3” components to create several different robots throughout the week. Each project consisted of a quick presentation of information that we would need to know, and then we had a few hours to come up with a design and build it. We would then have a competition comparing the design, function, and overall looks of our creations. There was also a week-long creative project where we were free to design and build a robot that did something amazing to impress the other teams. Every member of
Heraldry of the

SIOUX FALLS COMPOSITE SQUADRON

By Maj. Bruce Kipp, CAP
Assistant Wing Historian

The Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, CAP designation NCR-SD-050, is located in Sioux Falls, SD. It is one of six squadrons in the South Dakota Wing.

The squadron is named after the city where it is located. The squadron is one of the oldest in the South Dakota Wing and can document its lineage to 1950 and, anecdotally to 1942, when it was the location of one of the eight Area Group Commands in the South Dakota Wing.

The squadron’s distinctive unit patch is in the traditional shape of a shield with a scroll at the bottom bearing an abbreviated form of the squadron’s name. The patch is outlined in white. At the top of the shield is a horizontal black bar bearing the Civil Air Patrol motto “Vigilant Always” in Latin in white. Below the black bar is a nose-on view of a Cessna aircraft in Civil Air Patrol colors flying through the vivid hues of a South Dakota evening. Below the aircraft is an abbreviated form of the squadron’s CAP designator.

Horizontally, just below the center of the shield is a depiction of the Sioux Falls skyline. The brown and blue area below the skyline represents the waterfall on the Sioux River. At the bottom of the shield is a composite of an older version of the Civil Air Patrol’s winged logo over stylized Air Force style wings. This symbolizes that the Civil Air Patrol is the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force.

The squadron patch was designed in 2006 by Lt. Col. Rick Larson and the then Squadron Public Affairs Officer Lt. Shawn Anderson. It was approved for wear shortly thereafter.

NCSA

Continued from page . . .

every team gained hands-on experience in designing, testing, building, operating, and documenting their robotic builds throughout the week.

The robots we created include a candy grabbing robot, remote controlled racing robots, an airplane with a functioning cockpit and control surfaces (but it didn’t fly), a fully autonomous party robot, and a remote control wrestling robot.

During the week we did have some fun activities outside of the class room. We were able to get a tour of NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory (the center for robotic exploration of space), then we visited the Griffith Observatory. We were also able to tour the U.S. Navy’s Landing Craft Air Cushioned (LCAC) base nearby, and we spent an evening at the beach (including a beach BBQ).

Over all it was an amazing week, we learned about robots, we built robots, we were able to have some fun activities outside of the classroom, and we were able to meet Civil Air Patrol people from all around the US (we even had a cadet from Puerto Rico). If you are a cadet reading this who hasn’t yet attended a NCSA, I would strongly urge you to check them out and try to go to one next year (you will have to attend one encampment before you can attend a NCSA). Also, if you are interested in robotics, engineering, or just STEM in general, I suggest checking out E-Tech Robotics.
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Staff Sgt. David Stockinger, the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron’s Aerospace Education Officer, arranged a cool Aerospace Education activity for the unit. Mr. Paavo Rasmussen from the Siouxland Heritage Museum brought a portable planetarium to the squadron meeting.

The Siouxland Heritage Museum’s website describes the Starlab experience – Gaze into the night sky in our portable planetarium and discover the secrets of the seasonal constel-

![The winter night sky over Sioux Falls projected on Starlab’s stardome.](image)

Members of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron and guests about to experience the wonders of Starlab.
lations. Starlab gives viewers the tools to begin their own sky exploration. Starlab encompasses astronomy and mythology.

Some 40 squadron members and guests were transported through the universe as Mr. Rasmussen guided us through the stars of the Northern Hemisphere as they appear at this time of year. We were introduced to Greek mythological characters as we explored how heroes of the past can be found in the night sky as we learned to identify stars and constellations.

Squadron Commander, Capt. Jason Erickson said, “What a great thing to have right at our squadron. It will help me remember how to identify the constellations and how they came about”.

The squadron thanks Mr. Rasmussen for transporting, erecting and operating the Starlab and for his expert navigation and explanation of the heavens.

The portable Starlab planetarium is set up in the hangar under the squadron’s headquarters.

The stardome shows the position of the constellations as seen from Sioux Falls in winter.
2015 JOINT DAKOTAS ENCAMPMENT

By Maj. Bruce Kipp, CAP
Wing Public Affairs Officer
With input from Maj. Nick Gengler, Encampment Commander
and Staff Sgt. David Stockinger, Encampment PAO

It was South Dakota’s turn to host the 2015 Joint Dakota Encampment from 10-19 July at the Camp Rapid National Guard facilities in Rapid City, SD. The encampment’s motto was “Omnia Vincit Animus” (Courage Conquers All). The theme for the encampment was “Cadet Leadership.”

Under the supervision of Encampment Commander Maj. Nick Gengler and his staff of senior members, the cadet staff, from Cadet Commander down to the Flight Sergeants and supernumeraries, planned and conducted the encampment. The focus was on Cadets leading and teaching cadets.

Some of the subjects covered were military customs and courtesies, drill and ceremonies, physical fitness, firearms training simulator, and night field training maneuvers. The cadets did some great
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team building exercises at the Leadership Reaction Courses at Camp Rapid West. Classroom and field training on the skills and techniques of leadership were also some of the activities at the encampment. Although the encampment was a high-intensity experience for the cadets, fun frequently broke out to enhance the experience. The facilities in which the cadets got a taste of military life such as barracks and a mess hall were simply outstanding.

Maj. Gengler reports 81 members attended the encampment: 22 Senior Members (3 from North Dakota Wing and 19 from South Dakota Wing), and 59 cadets (16 from North Dakota Wing, 1 each from Missouri Wing, Idaho Wing and Minnesota Wing, and 40 from South Dakota Wing). Wing Commander Col. John Seten and Wing Vice Commander Lt. Col. Rick Larson travelled to Camp Rapid for a briefing on Encampment operations and met and spoke with the staff and participants.

Highlights of the encampment was the tour of SD Army National Guard Helicopters at the Army Aviation Support Facility at the Rapid City Regional Airport, a visit to the Air and Space Museum outside Ellsworth AFB, and observing live training at the Officer Basic Course going on at Camp Rapid West for NCOs that the Army National Guard selected to train as Officers.

The 2015 Joint Dakota Encampment ended with a
We are proud to support the men, women and young cadets that give of themselves to make our state a safer place to live.
banquet and awards presentation at Ellsworth AFB. We were pleased to that 20 guests show up to view the graduation of the cadets. The overall assessment of the encampment by the staff and participants, seniors and cadets, was that it was successful and everyone had a great time. Wing Commander Seten said, “We had a good turnout and some very meaningful training during the encampment. I can tell when an encampment goes well by both the feedback I receive afterwards and the number of mishap reports I have to process - feedback was positive and mishap reports were few.”

Attendance at an encampment qualifies cadets to participate in more advanced summer opportunities such as aircraft, glider and hot air balloon flight academies as well as a wide variety National Cadet Special Activities. Of course, this year’s general encampment attendees will have the opportunity to return next year as cadet staff/instructors.

The South Dakota Wing expresses it grateful thanks appreciation to the South Dakota National Guard for the use of their exceptional facilities and for the cooperation, support and assistance of their personnel. We offer a special thanks to the staff of the dining facility who kept our always-hungry teenagers well fed.
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- Aerospace Education (aviation, aerospace sciences and space exploration)

- Cadet Programs (leadership, self-discipline, confidence, good citizenship)

COME AND JOIN US

Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City meets every Thursday at 6:30pm. Contact Maj. Craig Goodrich at 605-787-8230 or by email at: craig.goodrich@sdcap.us

Pierre Composite Squadron in Pierre meets every Tuesday at 7:00pm. Contact Capt. Richard Helton at 605-682-1420 or by email at: Richard.helton@sdcap.us

Sioux Falls Composite Squadron in Sioux Falls meets every Thursday at 6:45pm. Contact Capt. Jason Erickson at 605-321-3298 or by email at: jason.erickson@sdcap.us

Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron in Spearfish meets every Thursday at 6:30pm. Contact Maj. Bill Collister at 605-920-0895 or by email at: bill.collister@gmail.com

Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings meets every Thursday at 7:00pm. Contact Capt. Shannon Hofer at 605-366-6402 or by email at: shannon.hofer@sdcap.us

Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer meets every Thursday at 7:00pm. Contact Capt. Kris Bierwirth at 605-673-4816 or by email at: kris.bierwirth@sdcap.us
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Log onto www.dakotamagic.com for all upcoming events or to purchase concert tickets.
Early on 10 January, the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Tyndall AFB, Florida notified the South Dakota Wing that the Lawrence County Office of Emergency Management requested CAP assistance in the search for a missing person believed to be southeast of Spearfish.

A specially-equipped, Rapid City-based CAP Cessna-182T aircraft was used for the search. The CAP aircrew consisted of Lt. Col. Gary Hewett (Mission Pilot), Capt. Joshua Hall (Mission Observer) and Maj. David Small, Jr. (Mission Scanner). The Incident Commander was JD Guigoe of Lawrence County OEM. Col. John Seten coordinated the CAP activity.

The individual was found alive and all CAP assets were stood down.

The South Dakota Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, with squadrons in South Dakota in Sioux Falls, Brookings, Rapid City, Pierre, Custer and Spearfish has approximately 300 members, six light aircraft and 17 multi-purpose vehicles. These assets are available to federal, state and county governments, emergency responders and law enforcement agencies to perform search and rescue, homeland security, disaster relief, humanitarian assistance and counter-drug missions. For more information on SD CAP visit the wing’s website at http://sdcap.us and Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/SDWingCAP. For general information on CAP visit www.gocivilairpatrol.com or www.capvolunteernow.com.
25 January 2015

CIVIL AIR PATROL STATEWIDE SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING

Each year the Civil Air Patrol’s South Dakota Wing holds statewide search and rescue training exercises. The first for 2015 was held Saturday, the 24th of January. The activity is referred to as a “Split SAREX” (Search and Rescue Exercise), split because coordinated training is conducted simultaneously in the East River and West River areas. The focus was on training aircrews, ground search teams and command staffs through realistic search and rescue scenarios that mirror Civil Air Patrol’s real-world activity. All five of the Wing’s aircraft, six vehicles and 75 officers and cadets took part in the training exercise.

In the West River area an Incident Command Post was set up at the headquarters of the Rushmore Composite Squadron on Ellsworth AFB. Three CAP aircraft flew search and rescue sorties from the squadron’s hangar at the Rapid City Regional airport. In addition, one ground search team operated from the squadron headquarters conducting independent but similar training exercises as the aircraft.

In the East River area, a Staging Base was set up at the headquarters of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron at the Brookings Airport. Big Sioux’s personnel were joined by aircraft, vehicles and personnel from the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron. Under the control of Incident Commander Col. Mike Beason at Ellsworth AFB two CAP aircraft and two ground teams conducted training exercises similar to those in the West River area.

The Split SAREX gave participants the chance to work with Wing units that don’t often have the opportunity to train together with massed assets. The great benefit from training such as this is teamwork, the coordination between command staff, aircrews and ground teams. In addition, a great deal of individual skills training was also accomplished.

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CUTLINE:
Photo-1 – CAP aircraft being prepped for flight during the exercise

CUTLINE:
Photo-2 - Cadet Radio Operators maintain contact with deployed aircraft and ground search teams
CADET CYBER-SLEUTHS ADVANCE TO NATIONALS

The cadet cybersecurity team from Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings is heading to the national finals of the CyberPatriot competition for the fourth year in a row! To earn the all-expenses-paid trip the crack team of cadet cyber-sleuths placed first in regional round of the competition. The national finals of the CyberPatriot-VII competition will be held in March in Washington, D.C.

CyberPatriot is a unique educational competition that challenges high-school age youth to resolve real-life cybersecurity situations faced by industry professionals. Created in 2009 by the Air Force Association, the CyberPatriot competition provides students with hands-on learning about securing computer networks while educating, and motivating them toward careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, disciplines critical to the nation’s future.

In the finals, the only in-person round, the team will compete to defend virtual networks and mobile devices from a professional aggressor team. The finalists will also face-off in three additional competition components: Digital Cyber Crime Scene Challenge, Cisco Networking Challenge, and Digital Forensics Challenge. These extra challenges broaden the cybersecurity experience and expose teams to new elements of the many career opportunities available to them. The team will be scored on how quickly and effectively they establish and maintain secure networks.

The “All Service Division” in which the Brookings cadets compete is made up of Army, Air Force and Marine Corps Junior ROTC units, Naval Sea Cadet Corps, and Civil Air Patrol squadrons. In the CyberPatriot-VII competition there are 1,007 teams in this division.

The 2014 Big Sioux Composite Squadron’s “Big Sioux” cyber-security team consists of Team Captain Cadet Major Joshua Klosterman of Brandon, Cadet Lieutenant Chris Dinnel, Cadet Senior Master Sergeant Jaden Petersen, Cadet Staff Sergeant Nathaniel Fleet, all from Lake Benton, MN, and Cadet Lieutenant Laura Rudnik of Brookings. The team is coached by Capt. Shannon Hofer of Hendricks, MN and mentored by Cadet Captain Tyler Gross of Volga.

The Air Force Association (AFA), the sponsoring organization, is a non-profit, independent, professional military and aerospace education association. Its mission is to promote a dominant United States Air Force and a strong national defense, and to honor Airmen and our Air Force Heritage. AFA has 200 chapters nationally and internationally representing more than 100,000 members. Visit AFA at www.afa.org.

The annual CyberPatriot competition greatly benefits from the support and technical expertise of its presenting sponsor, the Northrop Grumman Foundation. Other sponsors include Cyber Diamond Sponsors, AT&T Federal, Cisco, Microsoft, Raytheon, USA Today, the Department of Homeland Security, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Cyber Gold Sponsors URS, Splunk, Symantec Corporation, Cyber Silver Sponsors Air Force Research
Laboratory, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Leidos, MIT’s Lincoln Laboratory, and University College of the University of Maryland. For more information about CyberPatriot, go to www.uscyberpatriot.org.

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CUTLINE
The Big Sioux cyber-security team
SOUTH DAKOTA WING MEETS THE GOVERNOR

Wednesday, February 11th was the Civil Air Patrol’s “Legislative Day” at the State Capitol. Some 50 members of CAP’s South Dakota Wing, representing all six squadrons, converged on the state capitol where they met with Governor Daugaard and state legislators. The CAP officers and cadets met with Gov. Daugaard shortly before Noon and then posed with him on the steps of the Capitol Rotunda for a group photo. Afterwards they attended the legislative sessions of the House and Senate where they received special recognition when legislators of both houses gave the CAP members a standing ovation. During the afternoon break in the legislative sessions CAP hosted a snack for the legislators during which they handed out informational materials and spoke with them about Civil Air Patrol and what CAP’s South Dakota Wing does for communities, counties and the state.

Across the nation officers and cadets of each of the 50 Wings of the Civil Air Patrol visited their state’s capitol to meet their legislators and talk about CAP and how it supports each state. At the national level, senior CAP officers met with their state’s federal senators and congressmen on the same mission.

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CUTLINE:
Officers and cadets of the South Dakota Wing of the Civil Air Patrol pose with Gov. Daugaard on the steps of the Capitol Rotunda on 2-11-15.
CADET CYBER-SLEUTHS AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

A team of cadet cyber-sleuths from the Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings, members of the Civil Air Patrol’s South Dakota Wing, are competing in the national finals of CyberPatriot-VII which began today in Washington, D.C. The national finals competition runs from 11-15 March.

Team Big Sioux consists of Team Captain C/Maj Joshua Klosterman of Brandon, C/2nd Lt Chris Dinnel, C/SMSgt Jaden Petersen, C/SSgt Sergeant Nathaniel Fleet, all from Lake Benton, MN, and C/2nd Lt Laura Rudnik of Brookings. The team is coached by Capt. Shannon Hofer of Hendricks, MN and mentored by Cadet Captain Tyler Gross of Volga.

During the online qualification rounds the Big Sioux team faced realistic, complex and sophisticated online computer network threats at their home location seeking out weaknesses in simulated online networks and working to defend those networks from threat scenarios. The team was scored according to how quickly and effectively they established and maintained the secure networks.

In recognition of their success, Team Big Sioux earned an all-expenses paid trip to the national finals. In the finals, the only in-person round, the team will compete to defend virtual networks and mobile devices from a professional aggressor team. The finalists will also face-off in three additional competition components: Digital Cyber Crime Scene Challenge, Cisco Networking Challenge, and Digital Forensics Challenge. These extra challenges broaden the cybersecurity experience and expose teams to new elements of the many career opportunities available to them. The team will be scored on how quickly and effectively they establish and maintain secure networks.

Civil Air Patrol teams compete in the “All Services Division” which consists of teams from Army, Air Force and Marine Corps Junior ROTC units, the Naval Sea Cadet Corps, and CAP. Only the top two teams in each category of the All Services Division go to the national finals. Thirteen teams will compete in the All Service Division; two each from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force JROTC and the Sea Cadets, two CAP teams and one wildcard team.

In last year’s CyberPatriot-VI competition the Big Sioux cyber-security team made it to the national finals where they placed seventh overall, no mean achievement considering 864 teams competed in the All-Service Division. However, Team Big Sioux won first place among the 320 Civil Air Patrol teams competing. In recognition of this achievement the Air Force Association presented the team with the CAP Champion Award.

CyberPatriot is a unique educational competition that challenges high school students to resolve real-life cybersecurity situations faced by industry professionals. Created in 2009 by the Air Force Association, the CyberPatriot competition provides students with hands-on learning about securing computer networks while
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The annual CyberPatriot competition greatly benefits from the support and technical expertise of its presenting sponsor, the Northrop Grumman Foundation. Other sponsors include Cyber Diamond Sponsors, AT&T Federal, Cisco, Microsoft, Raytheon, USA Today, the Department of Homeland Security, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Cyber Gold Sponsors URS, Splunk, Symantec Corporation, Cyber Silver Sponsors Air Force Research Laboratory, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Leidos, MIT’s Lincoln Laboratory, and University College of the University of Maryland. For more information about CyberPatriot, go to www.uscyberpatriot.org.

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For general information on CAP visit www.gocivilairpatrol.com or www.capvolunteernow.com.

Civil Air Patrol, the longtime all-volunteer U.S. Air Force auxiliary, is the newest member of the Air Force’s Total Force, which consists of Regular Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, along with Air Force retired military and civilian employees. CAP, in its Total Force role, operates a fleet of 550 aircraft and performs about 85 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and is credited by the AFRCC with saving an average of 70 lives annually. Civil Air Patrol’s 58,000 members nationwide also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. Its Airmen additionally play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to more than 24,000 young people currently participating in the CAP cadet program. Civil Air Patrol received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2014 in honor of the heroic efforts of its World War II veterans. Congressionally chartered 74 years ago, the nonprofit organization also participates in Wreaths Across America, an initiative to remember, honor and teach about the sacrifices of U.S. military veterans. Visit www.capvolunteernow.com for more information.
13 March 2015

CAP OFFICER INDUCTED INTO ENGINEERING ORDER

First Lieutenant Victoria Bierwirth of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer, a member of the Civil Air Patrol’s South Dakota Wing, was inducted into the Order of the Engineer at a ceremony on 17 February at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

Lt. Bierwirth will graduate in May 2015 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Geological Engineering with minors in Geospatial Technology and German. If all goes as planned, she will pursue a Master of Science degree in Groundwater Management in Germany beginning in 2016.

The Order of the Engineer was founded in the United States to foster pride, dedication and responsibility to the engineering profession. The first induction ceremony was held in 1970. Since then, induction ceremonies have been held across the U.S. at which graduate and registered engineers are invited to accept the Obligation of the Engineer, an ethical code of an engineer's responsibilities to the profession and to the public.

Upon induction the individual is presented with a stainless steel engineer’s ring to present to the public a visible symbol identifying the engineer. In the United States the ring is worn on the fifth finger of the working hand. South Dakota is within Region III of the Order. The chapter (called a Link) at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology was established in 1980.

CUTLINES:

Photo-1 Designator: Order of the Engineer Logo.jpg
Photo-1 Caption: The logo of the Order of the Engineer.

Photo-2 Designator: Oath-Cap-Ring-1.jpg
Photo-2 Caption: The Oath Certificate and Steel Ring of the Order of the Engineer

Photo-3 Designator: Vicki-1.jpg
Photo-3 Caption: CAP Lt. Victoria Bierwirth wearing her Engineer’s Ring.

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CIVIL AIR PATROL PILOT HITS AVIATION MILESTONE

Civil Air Patrol pilot Lt. Col. Greg Lair, a resident of Sioux Falls and member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron of CAP’s South Dakota Wing, achieved a significant aviation milestone. In his day job, Greg is USAF Col. Lair, Operations Group Commander of the 114th Fighter Wing of the SDANG.

On 11 March he and USAF Lt. Col. Eric Knutson, completed 3,000 career flight hours in the F-16 Fighting Falcon when they landed after a training sortie at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls. Upon landing they were met by family members, friends and SDANG colleagues who congratulated them. 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. In addition to Col. Lair and Lt. Col. Knutson, the commander of the 175th Fighter Squadron, Lt. Col. Todd Sheridan, is the only other current member of the SDANG to have reached this milestone.

“The South Dakota Wing of the Civil Air Patrol is honored to have Lt. Col. Lair as a member. His experience as an Air Force pilot is of great value to our organization.” said Colonel John Seten the Wing Commander for the SD Civil Air Patrol.

When not on duty with the South Dakota Air National Guard or flying for the Civil Air Patrol, Greg Lair is a pilot for United Airlines. USAF Lt. Col. Eric Knutson is Chief of Safety at the SDANG 114th Fighter Wing.

**CUTLINES:**

- Photo Designator: Knutsen-Lair-1.jpg
  Caption: Lt. Col. Knutson (left) and Col. Lair (right) congratulate each other after landing.

- Photo Designator: Knutsen-Lair-2.jpg
  Caption – Lt. Col. Knutson (left) and Col. Lair (right) pose following their milestone flight.

- Photo Designator: Lair and Daughter.jpg
  Caption – Col. Lair and daughter Julia, a CAP Cadet Staff Sergeant, who assisted in the wetting down ceremony for her father.

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Civil Air Patrol, the longtime all-volunteer U.S. Air Force auxiliary, is the newest member of the Air Force’s Total Force, which consists of Regular Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, along with Air Force retired military and civilian employees. CAP, in its Total Force role, operates a fleet of 550 aircraft and performs about 85 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and is credited by the AFRCC with saving an average of 70 lives annually. Civil Air Patrol’s 58,000 members nationwide also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. Its Airmen additionally play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to more than 24,000 young people currently participating in the CAP cadet program. Civil Air Patrol received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2014 in honor of the heroic efforts of its World War II veterans. Congressionally chartered 74 years ago, the nonprofit organization also participates in Wreaths Across America, an initiative to remember, honor and teach about the sacrifices of U.S. military veterans. Visit [www.capvolunteernow.com](http://www.capvolunteernow.com) for more information.
CAP’s Team Big Sioux Wins Second Place in National CyberPatriot-VII

The cadet cyber-security team of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings, part of the Civil Air Patrol’s South Dakota Wing, won second place in the national finals of the Air Force Association’s seventh annual CyberPatriot Competition held in Washington, D.C. from 11-15 March. In addition, they were the top Civil Air Patrol team in the competition.

The team from Brookings competed in the “All Service Division” national finals for the fourth year in a row against teams from the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Junior ROTC programs, the Naval Sea Cadet Corps and the Civil Air Patrol. In CyberPatriot-VII 1,007 teams competed in the All Services Division, 400 teams from CAP units. Only the top two teams from each organization in the All Services Division got to go to the national finals. “We are extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Big Sioux squadron in their pursuit of being the top team in the competition. A lot of hard work and dedication goes into preparation for this competition and to be the top Civil Air Patrol team in the nation is no easy feat.” Said Colonel John Seten, the Wing Commander of the South Dakota Civil Air Patrol.

In the national finals 28 teams, 13 from the All Service Division, competed to defend virtual networks and mobile devices from a professional aggressor team. The national finalists also faced off in four additional competition components: the Digital Cyber Crime Scene Challenge from the Digital Forensic Consortium, the Cisco Networking Challenge, the Leidos Digital Forensics Challenge and a Mobile Application Challenge hosted by AT&T. The teams were scored on how quickly and effectively they established and maintained secure networks.

Team Big Sioux consists of Team Captain C/Maj Joshua Klosterman of Brandon, C/2nd Lt Chris Dinnel, C/CMSgt Jaden Petersen and C/TSGt Sergeant Nathaniel Fleet, all from Lake Benton, MN, and C/2nd Lt Laura Rudnik of Brookings. The team is coached by Capt. Shannon Hofer of Hendricks, MN, who is the Big Sioux Composite Squadron commander as well as the South Dakota Wing's Director of Information Technology and Web Security Administrator and mentored by Cadet Captain Tyler Gross of Volga.

CyberPatriot VII began last October with more than 2,100 teams from all 50 states, Canada and Department of Defense dependent schools in Europe and the Pacific. After two months of rigorous online challenges, the Open Division and All Service Division teams were divided into three tiers: Platinum, Gold and Silver. Team Big Sioux was placed in the Platinum Tier. The teams continued to compete within their tiers for state awards and advancement to the regional/category round. Only teams in the top Platinum tier were eligible to advance to national finals competition.

**CUTLINE:**
Photo – Team Big Sioux at the awards ceremony of the national CyberPatriot-VII competition. (L-R) Col. Larry Ragland, National Headquarters Chief of Staff, C/Maj Joshua Klosterman, C/CMSgt Jaden Petersen, C/2nd Lt Laura Rudnik, C/2nd Lt Chris Dinnel, C/TSgt Sergeant Nathaniel Fleet.

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21 March 2015

CIVIL AIR PATROL CONDUCTING SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING

The Civil Air Patrol’s South Dakota Wing is conducting a training exercise today. The activity is referred to as a SAREX (Search and Rescue Exercise). The focus is training aircrews, ground search teams and the command staff to react to a simulated emergency services situation. It tests their ability to plan, coordinate and conduct a mission based on realistic training scenarios that mirror Civil Air Patrol’s real-world activity. Four of the Wing’s five aircraft, several vehicles and 24 officers and 14 cadets are taking part in the training.

An Incident Command Post, also referred to as Mission Base, has been set up at the Mustang Aviation Facility at the Pierre Regional Airport in Pierre. The CAP aircraft will fly search and rescue sorties from there. In addition, a ground search team will operate from the same facility to conduct independent but similar training exercises as the aircraft.

SAREXs gave participants the chance to work with other South Dakota Wing units that don’t often have the opportunity to train together with massed assets. The great benefit from training such as this is teamwork, the coordination between command staff, aircrews and ground teams. In addition, a great deal of individual skills training will also be accomplished.

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CIVIL AIR PATROL’S EARL WILKINSON RECEIVES CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL FOR WORLD WAR II SERVICE

When the U.S. entered World War II, everyday American civilians helped to defend the home front. The all-volunteer Civil Air Patrol, formed shortly before the war, was in the forefront of defending our coastlines from enemy attack. On Wednesday, 8 April, Earl Wilkinson, who served in CAP during WWII, was posthumously honored for his service with the award of the Congressional Gold Medal.

South Dakota’s U.S. Representative Kristi Noem presented the Congressional Gold Medal to Tom Senesac, Wilkinson’s grandson, at a ceremony Wednesday, 8 April in the Dorr Room in the Surbeck Center on the SD School of Mines campus. Other members of the Wilkinson family were also in attendance. There was a short reception after the ceremony.

CAP was founded December 1, 1941, a week before the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the United States’ entry into WWII. Within three months CAP organizations formed along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts to carry out anti-submarine patrols to help protect the nation by warding off German U-boat attacks on American oil tankers bound for Allied nations. Over the next 15 months, CAP members used their own planes to watch for German subs. Those patrols accounted for 86,685 missions that involved 244,600 flight hours and over 24 million air miles. They sighted 173 submarines, are credited with dropping bombs that sank two subs, and located more than 300 survivors of U-boat attacks.

In the interior of the US, CAP’s early members also took to the skies to patrol the nation’s borders, tow targets for military training, watch for forest fires, conduct search and rescue missions, provide disaster relief, transport people and parts, and conduct orientation flights for future pilots.

Over 120,000 men, women and teenagers joined CAP immediately before and during the war. Overall the members of the Civil Air Patrol logged an estimated 750,000 hours of flight time during the war, Sixty-four members died in service during World War II.

In December 2014, a Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor civilians can receive, was awarded collectively to CAP members whose valor and dedication during World War II helped thwart the enemy and save lives.

South Dakota has three natives who will receive the bronze replica medal; Mrs. Sylvia Henkin, a resident of Sioux Falls, and two deceased individuals – Luverne “Vern” Kraemer and Vernon Jeffries. Mrs. Norma Kraemer, widow of Vern Kraemer, travelled to Washington, D.C. for the ceremony and was presented her husband’s bronze replica medal by CAP National Commander Maj. Gen. Joe Vazquez. Mrs. Henkin and the Jeffries family will receive the bronze replica medal at ceremonies to be held in South Dakota later this year.
Although Earl Wilkinson was a Minnesotan, his family resides in South Dakota. In addition, South Dakota Wing Chaplain (CAP Lt. Col.) Gary Rae, the son of John “Jack” Rae Jr who flew during WWII for CAP’s Pennsylvania Wing, will receive his father’s medal at a ceremony at the South Dakota Wing Conference on 18 April in Rapid City.

*Cutlines:*

*(Earl Wilkinson.jpg)*
Earl Wilkinson, a WWII-era Lieutenant in CAP, flew anti-submarine patrols during out of CAP’s base in Atlantic City New Jersey. In addition, he flew courier missions and towed target sleeves to train military personnel.  
*Photo courtesy of Tom Senesac, grandson of Earl Wilkinson*

*(Tom Senesac with Wilkinson CGM.jpg)*
Tom Senesac accepted his grandfather’s Congressional Gold Medal on behalf of the family.

*(CGM Obverse.jpeg)*
Front of the bronze replica of the Congressional Gold Medal presented to the family of WWII era CAP pilot Earl Wilkinson.  
*Photo courtesy of the South Dakota Wing of the Civil Air Patrol*

*(CGM Reverse.jpeg)*
Back of the bronze replica of the Congressional Gold Medal presented to the family of WWII era CAP pilot Earl Wilkinson.  
*Photo courtesy of the South Dakota Wing of the Civil Air Patrol*

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CIVIL AIR PATROL NATIONAL COMMANDER VISITS SIOUX FALLS

The National Commander of the Civil Air Patrol, Major General Joseph Vazquez, paid a brief visit to Sioux Falls today to meet with members of CAP’s South Dakota Wing. The meeting took place at the Holiday Inn Sioux Falls – City Center. Accompanying Maj Gen Vazquez was his wife, CAP Lieutenant Colonel Leslie Vazquez, Civil Air Patrol’s Aviation Industry Liaison.

Major General Vazquez briefed the attendees on upcoming and proposed organizational changes, various operational issues, on closer relations with the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, and making CAP’s data interfaces more user-friendly. At the end he took questions from Wing members.

SDCAP Wing Commander Colonel John Seten commented, “What a great opportunity for our members to hear the way ahead from the top, while we give leadership the view from the field. We really appreciate the General and Lieutenant Colonel Vazquez visit.

CAP Major General Vazquez was appointed to a three-year term as CAP’s National Commander/CEO on April 4, 2014 and assumed command at a formal change-of-command ceremony on August 15, 2014, at CAP’s 2014 National Conference. Prior to his appointment as National Commander he served a three-year term as National Vice Commander with the grade of CAP Brigadier General. The National Commander and National Vice Commander are the only two CAP officers to hold general’s grade.

Cutline

(Maj Gen Vazquez.jpg)
National Commander of the Civil Air Patrol

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24 April 2015

SOUTH DAKOTA WING CADET RECEIVES ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP

Cadet Major Brandon West, a resident of Brandon and a member of the Civil Air Patrol South Dakota Wing’s Sioux Falls Composite Squadron has been awarded a CAP academic scholarship. Each year CAP partners with its academic and organizational partners to award over $350,000 in scholarships to its members. Just recently C/Maj West was notified that he had been awarded a $1,000 academic scholarship provided by the United Services Automobile Association (USAA) insurance company. Cadet West was awarded the scholarship based on “superior performance as a student, citizenship, and Civil Air Patrol achievements”, according to Steven Trupp, CAP Cadet Program Manager. USAA provides academic scholarships each year to three outstanding cadets for assistance in pursuing undergraduate education. Brandon is working towards a degree in the School of Nursing Honor Program at the University of Minnesota.

In addition to his academic successes, Cadet West, who holds a private pilot’s license, is now qualified to fly a Civil Air Patrol Cessna-172 and Cessna-182 aircraft.

Cutline

(SD50 Lair-West.jpg)
CAP Lt. Col. Greg Lair (left) congratulates Cadet Major West after qualifying in a CAP Cessna-172
5 May 2015

**Civil Air Patrol Brookings Squadron wins Squadron of the Year at Wing Conference**

The Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings won the "Squadron of the Year Award" at the South Dakota Wing Conference and Awards Ceremony last month in Pierre.

During the awards ceremony South Dakota Wing Commander Colonel John Seten expressed his pride in the Big Sioux Composite Squadron, “Big Sioux is an outstanding squadron in all respects. The award presented tonight is clear testimony to the quality and professionalism of its people and of its programs.”

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South Dakota Civil Air Patrol Awards Flight Scholarships to Three Cadets

South Dakota Wing Commander Colonel John Seten has announced the winners of the 2015 Civil Air Patrol/South Dakota Wing Flight Scholarships.

Cadet Second Lieutenant Nicholas Nash and Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Jaden Roblewsy, both residents of Sioux Falls and members of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, were awarded a $1000 flight scholarship. Cadet Master Sergeant Hannah Becker, a resident of Pierre and member of the Pierre Composite Squadron, was awarded a $700 flight scholarship.

In making the announcement, Col. Seten commented, “It gives me great pleasure to award the scholarships to these three outstanding cadets to help them continue their aviation education.”

Each year cadets in the South Dakota Wing are afforded the opportunity to apply for a flight scholarship which is to be used for primary flight instruction towards their private pilot certificate.

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South Dakota Civil Air Patrol Flies Air Force JROTC Cadets

The Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFJROTC) and the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, Civil Air Patrol (CAP) have teamed up to provide AFJROTC cadets under the Flight Orientation Program. Funding for these flights became available this year for Box Elder’s Douglas High School AFJROTC cadets to take to the skies.

The primary objective of the Flight Orientation Program is to provide exposure for AFJROTC cadets to flight operations. Orientation flights are conducted to reward and motivate cadets, providing them a better understanding of aviation opportunities in the Air Force.

The orientation flight missions utilized CAP Cessna 172 and 182 aircraft. In all, eight AFJROTC cadets experienced aviation first hand.

Three CAP pilots from the South Dakota Wing’s Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City conducted the flights. Colonel Mike Beason, Lieutenant Colonel Chuck Trumble and Major Craig Goodrich, all former military pilots, flew the missions through May.

South Dakota CAP Wing Commander, Colonel John Seten commented, “We are pleased to have the opportunity to provide flights to cadets of Douglas High School’s AFJROTC program. There is no better way to convey the excitement and adventure of flying than by putting these cadets in the cockpit. CAP is again proving its value as part of the Air Force team!”

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South Dakota Wing in Civil Air Patrol National Communications Exercise

South Dakota Wing participated in the Civil Air Patrol’s National Communications Exercise “Constant Watch 15” in May. This annual exercise tests CAP’s ability to pass messages throughout the nation on high frequency (HF) radio. New this year was the relay of messages from HF stations to other CAP units over very high frequency (VHF) radios. South Dakota Wing’s participation in the exercise was directed by Capt. Jerry Gabert, Wing Director of Communications.

Initially, participants set up intra-Wing radio communications. HF stations were activated at Sioux Falls, Pierre, Valley Springs and Delmont. Routine and encrypted messages were passed and entered into the national CAP computer system.

Later the exercise expanded to include use of an airborne radio signal repeater in a Sioux Falls based CAP Cessna-182. The purpose was three-fold: to test the range of the VHF airborne repeater; to test inter-squadron VHF radio links; and to send messages by VHF for relay by the long range HF stations.

South Dakota Wing successfully passed message traffic on the CAP national HF net and monitored message traffic from all eight CAP regions, primarily from the Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Idaho, Michigan and Washington Wings.

Wing Commander Colonel John Seten commented, “This communications exercise demonstrates the Civil Air Patrol's capability to provide short range and long range communications support within South Dakota, within the region and nationally in the event of a major disaster or other type of emergency situation.”

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6 June 2015

**South Dakota Wing Officer Receives National CAP Award**

Lt. Col. Linda K. Buechler, a senior officer of the South Dakota Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, has been named the 2015 Civil Air Patrol Drug Demand Reduction Member of the Year!

In his congratulatory letter to her, CAP National Commander Maj. Gen. Joseph Vazquez wrote: I am happy to inform you of your selection as 2015 Civil Air Patrol Drug Demand Reduction Member of the Year. As the Drug Demand Reduction Member of the Year you will be honored by CAP at the upcoming National Conference in Orlando, Florida, August 27-29, 2015. I am confident you will continue to provide outstanding service to Civil Air Patrol and to the United States of America.

Lt. Col. Buechler is a resident of Sioux Falls and holds the South Dakota Wing Staff positions of Director of Cadet Programs, Drug Demand Reduction Administrator, and Health Programs Officer.

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**CUTLINE:**

(Buechler-2.jpg)
Civil Air Patrol summer aviation-related educational opportunities that were out of reach became reachable this year for more than 1,000 American young people, in large part courtesy of a grant from the U.S. Air Force.

Through the Cadet Encampment Assistance Program, Civil Air Patrol cadets who would have a difficult time covering the costs for attending their wings’ encampments received help to pay for lodging, meals, uniforms, transportation and other related costs. In the past, financially disadvantaged cadets have received scholarships through donations, generally from individual CAP adult members. But this year, funds from the Air Force have created a centralized program and significantly increased the number of cadets being served. As a result, the usual summer encampment attendance has jumped from 5-6,000 to as much as 7,000.

This year four South Dakota Wing cadets received a scholarship to attend the Civil Air Patrol Joint Dakotas Summer Encampment to be held in July at Camp Rapid.

Encampments are week-long learning academies. Held across the country and in Puerto Rico, encampments are big events in cadets’ lives, providing ways for the cadets to advance in rank, with classes in leadership, physical fitness and life skills. This year’s curriculum emphasizes character development and education in STEM — science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

“While there are still many financially needy cadets un-served, this has gone a long ways to allow some young Americans to experience aviation in a way they never would have if not for this initiative,” said Daniel R. Sitterly, principal deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

“The Air Force grant has significantly increased the number of cadets who can attend summer programs,” said Maj. Gen. Joe Vazquez, CAP’s national commander. “Historically cadets who attend encampments achieve more and advance further in the CAP Cadet Program. They learn valuable leadership skills among others and use these skills to mentor the next generation of cadets. This learning experience is very important for the cadets, their families, their communities, CAP, and, in years down the line, for America.”

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26 June 2015

**CAP ASKS FOR HELP LOCATING CANDIDATES FOR CGM AWARDS**

The South Dakota Wing of the Civil Air Patrol is looking for qualifying applicants to receive the Congressional Gold Medal. The award is given to those who were a member of the CAP during the period from December 7, 1941 to the end of hostilities on September 2, 1945, during World War II.

CAP veterans or their families must provide some evidence that shows that an individual served during this period; photos, identification documents copies of orders, or mention in a news article are some of the items accepted for verification purposes.

“It is believed that there are many more that would be eligible for the CGM,” said Col. John Seten, the South Dakota Wing’s commander. “We discover more names almost every month as we comb through our own historical records and carry out research at state, county and local archives.”

We are currently seeking to contact the individual or the families of John Moodie, Edward Anderson, Carl Baker, Lewis Beckwith, Jack Davis, Chuck Keown, Max Kuehn, Walter Mollers, Martin Schroeder, Cecil Urban, Ross Wehe, Leo Weber, and Roger L’Esperance, Clyde Ice, Floyd Barlow, Franklin Hyde, Ken Neville, Dwight Campbell, Ralph Hubbard, Cecil Shuee, and Knapp Brown.

“One difficulty when we discover a potential candidate is that there is often no contact information at all,” said Wing Historian Major Todd Epp. “We hope news articles such as this will spark someone’s memory and maybe someone will know someone and can put me in touch with either them or their family. I will then set up a time to meet with them and verify any information that they have. We would love to identify more candidates for the award.”

Maj. Epp said there were two ways people could contact him if they believed they or someone they know might qualify for the award. He can be reached by cell: 605-351-5021 or by email: todd.epp@sdcap.us.

The CAP Congressional Gold Medal bill was signed into law on May 30, 2014. South Dakota’s Senator Thune, then Senator Johnson and Representative Noem co-sponsored the bill. A ceremony was held in Washington, DC last December to make the initial presentations. Since that time two presentations have been made in South Dakota and two more are planned.

“Our goal is for every WWII CAP veteran to receive the recognition they deserve for their service and their sacrifice in defense of our nation,” said Maj. Bruce Kipp, South Dakota Wing Public Affairs Officer.

For more information on the Civil Air Patrol and for honoring WWII CAP veterans, please visit [www.capgoldmedal.com](http://www.capgoldmedal.com).
Anyone who thinks they may qualify for the Civil Air Patrol's Congressional Gold Medal award or knows the family of a former WWII-era CAP member is asked to notify Maj. Todd Epp by cell at: 605-351-5021 or by email: todd.epp@sdcap.us.

_The South Dakota Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, with squadrons in Sioux Falls, Brookings, Rapid City, Pierre, Custer and Spearfish has approximately 300 members, six light aircraft and 17 multi-purpose vehicles. These assets are available to federal, state and county governments, emergency responders and law enforcement agencies to perform search and rescue, homeland security, disaster relief, humanitarian assistance and counter-drug missions. For more information visit the wing’s website at http://sdcap.us and Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/SDWingCAP. For general information on CAP visit www.gocivilairpatrol.com or www.capvolunteernow.com._
7 July 2015

CAP CADETS TO BEGIN WEEK-LONG ENCAMPMENT

Civil Air Patrol cadets from across the region start a week-long encampment on Friday, 10 July. The cadets, ranging in age from 12-20 years old, participate in a week of military-style basic training where they stay in barracks and eat in a military dining facility.

Each year the South Dakota and North Dakota Wings of CAP hold a joint encampment. The two Wings alternate hosting the event. This year the encampment will be held at South Dakota Army National Guard facilities at Camp Rapid in Rapid City, SD.

Some of the activities planned for this year’s encampment include training in survival skills, an obstacle course, rappelling, marksmanship training, a group problem solving course, and learning leadership skills. The cadets also learn military customs and courtesies, how to march in formation and they take part in a variety of physical fitness activities.

“Encampment will test a cadet’s mind and body”, said Encampment Commander Maj. Nick Gengler. “It’s designed to be a challenge from start to finish. It’s also a lot of fun and an experience they will never forget.”

South Dakota Wing Commander Colonel John Seten commented “We are fortunate to have such fine facilities for our encampment. The staff at Camp Rapid has been great to work with and have provided us with much behind the scenes support.”

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19 July 2015

SD CADET TO ATTEND CAP’S NATIONAL OFFICERS SCHOOL

Cadet Major Nicole Schneider of Sioux Falls, and member of the Civil Air Patrol’s Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, has been selected to attend CAP’s prestigious National Cadet Officers School this summer. She will join 120 cadet colleagues from 36 states at CAP’s National Headquarters at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama to attend the 10-day, college-level course.

Participation in the National Cadet Officer School is a popular choice for CAP cadets because of the rigorous academic curriculum and caliber of instruction offered by Air Force and CAP officers. Only the top 15 percent of all CAP cadets are accepted to attend.

Wing Commander Colonel John Seten said, “Cadet Major Schneider’s selection to attend the National Cadet Officers School shows that South Dakota Wing has some of the finest cadets in all of CAP.”

The National Cadet Officers School is an academically challenging program designed to develop cadets’ broader understanding of leadership as a discipline. Throughout the week the cadets participate in a variety of lectures and supporting discussions to explore leadership topics. Through the rigorous curriculum and activities they enhance their ability to work with others. When they leave they are better prepared to serve as leaders in their units, schools and communities.

“At the National Cadet Officer School we are building our nation’s leaders of tomorrow,” said Lt. Col. Joe Winter, the activity’s director. “Our cadets gain confidence and experience as they develop their skills.

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CUTLINE:

(SD50 Nicole Schneider AFA Outstanding Officer-2.jpg)

Caption: Cadet Nicole Schneider receives the Sioux Falls Chapter of the Air Force Association Cadet Officer of the Year Award presented by SDANG Lt. Col. Greg Lair (April 2015)
17 September 2015

SOUTH DAKOTA CAP TRAINS IN MOUNTAIN SEARCH FLYING

From 11 to 13 September, eleven Civil Air Patrol pilots from across the South Dakota Wing participated in “Mountain Fury”, CAP’s Mountain Search Pilot Course. The purpose of the course was to train CAP Mission Pilots to be mountain-qualified CAP Mission Pilots. The activity was directed by Maj. Craig Goodrich, Commander of the Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City. Day one and part of day two were spent in classes on the physics, skills, techniques and perils of mountain flying. The classroom training was at the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron Headquarters in Custer. Classroom instruction was held on high altitude flying (Capt. Josh Hall), mountain weather (Maj. Craig Goodrich), mountain flying (Col. Mike Beason) and mountain searching (Capt. Matt Meert).

The rest of day two and day three were spent flying training sorties. Flight operations were at the Custer County Airport at Custer. Each mission pilot flew four mission training sorties. Although the elevation of the Black Hills of South Dakota do not provide the kind of mountainous terrain that other mountain states provide, many of the sorties were flown at 10,000 feet with reduced power settings to simulate “real” mountain flying. Plus, Custer County Airport and Custer State Park Airport are no walk-in-the-park - a pilot must be thinking about mountain flying to safely operate in and out of these challenging airports. A total of 25 sorties were flown during the training with seven of the pilots earning or renewing their Mountain Flying Certification.

Capt. Kurt Johnson of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, one of the mission pilots that went through the training said, "I personally gained a great deal of experience and respect for operating safely in "hot and high" environments. Our aircraft take on a whole new set of flight characteristics under these conditions. As pilots, we all read about this...but, the practical experience provided in this clinic was priceless! I feel no mission pilot should fly in mountainous terrain without this training and practical experience!"

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South Dakota CAP Assists with South Carolina Flood Damage Assessment

Although it is over 1,200 miles away from South Carolina, the Civil Air Patrol’s South Dakota Wing is assisting with impact assessments of the massive flooding there. Several members of the South Dakota Wing are taking part in FEMA’s second use of crowdsourcing to evaluate imagery of the massive flooding in South Carolina. The crowdsourced images are being evaluated in order for FEMA to obtain quick and effective damage assessments.

Col. John Seten, commander of CAP’s South Dakota Wing, said “a growing number of wing members are viewing the crowdsourced photos to help identify the extent of the damage”

“Civil Air Patrol is on the front lines supporting search and rescue, disaster assessment and relief efforts in South Carolina,” said Col. John Knowles, commander of CAP’s Middle East Region. Col. Francis Smith, the wing commander in South Carolina, is leading a team of dedicated airmen from South Carolina, North Carolina, Maryland and Georgia Wings taking aerial photos of the flooding for emergency management officials on the ground. The images, taken with CAP’s geotagging-capable cameras, provide officials with real-time information that helps them assess damages and assign critical response resources.

In a message sent by John Desmarais, Director of Operations at CAP National Headquarters, wing commanders were encouraged to ask members in their wings to assist FEMA in reviewing the images through online crowdsourcing tools fielded by crisis mapping volunteers via FEMA’s GeoPlatform. This crowdsourcing helps FEMA make many decisions and helps people in the affected areas.”

The first time FEMA used crowdsourcing of imagery was in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy on the East Coast in November 2012 to obtain quick and effective damage assessments.

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Civil Air Patrol, the longtime all-volunteer U.S. Air Force auxiliary, is the newest member of the Air Force’s Total Force, which consists of Regular Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, along with Air Force retired military and civilian employees. CAP, in its Total Force role, operates a fleet of 550 aircraft and performs about 85 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and is credited by the AFRCC with saving an
average of 70 lives annually. Civil Air Patrol’s 58,000 members nationwide also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. Its Airmen additionally play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to more than 24,000 young people currently participating in the CAP cadet program. Civil Air Patrol received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2014 in honor of the heroic efforts of its World War II veterans. Congressionally chartered 74 years ago, the nonprofit organization also participates in Wreaths Across America, an initiative to remember, honor and teach about the sacrifices of U.S. military veterans. Visit www.capvolunteernow.com for more information.
14 November 2015

South Dakota Wing Cadets Compete for National Cyber-Security Honors

The Civil Air Patrol’s Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings, part of the South Dakota Wing, will again participate in this year’s CyberPatriot, the premier National Youth Cyber Defense Competition. “Team Big Sioux” has enjoyed success at the national level in all four years that they have competed. Last year they placed second in the nation. In addition, they were the top CAP team in the competition.

This year Big Sioux Composite Squadron will field two teams in CyberPatriot-VIII’s All-Services Division. They will compete against 1,280 teams, 447 of them CAP teams. The All-Services Division consists of teams from the Civil Air Patrol, Naval Sea Cadet Corps, and Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps Junior ROTC.

CyberPatriot-VIII teams compete from their home locations in a series of online qualifying rounds that challenge them to find and fix security vulnerabilities in a variety of simulated networks. This year’s Round One will take place on 14 November. Teams race against the clock. Those who successfully finish with the fastest time advance to the next Round. The top teams from the online rounds will receive all-expenses-paid to Baltimore, Md., for the CyberPatriot-VIII National Finals Competition April 10-14, 2016.

Big Sioux’s Team-1 members are: C/Lt. Jaden Petersen of Brookings, SD (Team Captain), C/CMSgt. Graham Dinnel of Lake Benton, MN, C/MSgt. Andrew Toft of Elkton, SD, C/A1C Andrew Sweebe of Brookings, SD, C/A1C Peter Engels of Minneota, MN and Byron Hawk Bear of Flandreau, SD (Alternate).

Big Sioux’s Team-2 members are: Justin Rhoades (Team Captain), Zandria Ramon, Ruben Taken Alive, Jaden Parker, Arnold Parker and Reyanna Uses Many (Alternate), all reside in Flandreau, all attend Flandreau High School and all soon to become cadets in the Big Sioux Composite Squadron.

Both teams will be mentored by C/Lt. Col. Joshua Klosterman and coached by C/Maj. Tyler Gross, both veteran CyberPatriot competitors.

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