



## “THE SKYCHASER” – COMMUNITY EDITION

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for APRIL 2019

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

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### WING TIPS

- **AVIATION SCHOLARSHIP:** Cadet Staff Sergeant Alexander Heinrich of Custer, a member of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer, has been awarded an Aviation Scholarship of \$500 to attend the Civil Air Patrol’s Regional Glider Academy to be held in New Ulm, Minnesota from 12-20 July. Cadets attend glider ground school and then fly several sorties per day in pursuit of their Glider Solo Wings. The selection process just to attend is fiercely competitive. Congratulations to Cadet Heinrich!
- **PIERRE SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE:** The weather finally cooperated (mostly) and we had a successful event in Pierre the weekend of 6 April. Saturday morning dawned foggy and dreary - not only were CAP aircraft grounded but it was also below weather minimums for UAV work. Nonetheless teams headed to the airport for aircrew and mission base work and to Farm Island for ground team and UAV training. By about 0900 Farm Island had cleared enough so SM Tom Simmons was able to demonstrate several advanced UAVs with infrared for night search and other useful capabilities. The scenario for the ground team was a missing female believed to be in the northwest end of Farm Island. She hadn't been seen since Friday morning when she left the house for a nature walk. The "dummy" was hidden in some reeds on Farm Island and a yellow striped shirt placed along the shoreline as a clue. UAV flights were flown under the control of SM Tom Simmons and Col. David Small, both commercial licensed UAV operators, from the campground side of the lagoon out over the northwest end of Farm Island. Drone imaging was able to locate both the missing person as well as the discarded shirt. As happens with training, the location of the subject found by the drone was not communicated to the ground branch director, so the ground teams had to search the old fashioned way - and they were ultimately successful in rescuing the missing hiker. Meanwhile, back at the airport, conditions had cleared enough by noon so that aircrew training sorties were launched searching for a "missing" aircraft. Three air sorties provided valuable training in homing in on a training beacon. At the end of the day good training had occurred. UAVs promise to be an extremely effective tool for ground teams. More training and development

of best practices is needed but this was the first exercise developed around UAVs. The SAREX has been extended into most of April so that other crew can get training under other scenarios.



LEFT: A DRONE IS LAUNCHED ON A SEARCH MISSION IN A FORESTED AREA OF FARM ISLAND

RIGHT: A DRONE'S-EYE VIEW OF THE "MISSING HIKER" TARGET IS A THICKET OF WEEDS ON FARM ISLAND

## SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS



by Lt. Col. Nick Gengler, Wing Chief of Staff, and (right) Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese, Wing Vice Commander.

- **CHARTER PRESENTATION:** On 7 April the Miller Flight received its CAP charter from Col Small. Lt. Col. DeWeese, Lt. Col. Gengler, Maj. West and Capt. Oye were also there to help celebrate our new unit. With two CAP aircraft in Miller, we were able to give our cadets orientation rides. It was a great opportunity for our members to interact with Wing staff face-to-face. In the photo Col. Small presents the charter to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Rezac. They are flanked (left)

- **SQUADRON OF MERIT:** During the awards ceremony at the recent annual Wing Conference the Pierre Composite Squadron was designated a Civil Air Patrol Squadron of Merit for 2019 for its exceptional cadet programs performance throughout the year 2018. The squadron appreciably increased its cadet membership during this period.

## ★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

### Cadet Officer Promotion



Congratulations to Mariel Klosterman of Brandon, a member of Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings, on her 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. With her promotion Mariel becomes the second female C/ Lt Col in SDWG!



## **Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions**



Congratulations to Alec Crowser of Philip, a member of Pierre Composite Squadron, and to Hunter Rice of Custer, a member of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron, on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Chief Master Sergeant and receipt of the Dr. Robert H. Goddard Award!



Congratulations to Matthew Tracy of Summerset, a member of the Rushmore Composite Squadron, on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Master Sergeant and receipt of the Charles Lindbergh Award!



Congratulations to Chancey Hall of Highmore, a member of the Miller Flight, his on promotion to the rank of Cadet Technical Sergeant and receipt of the Captain Eddie Rickenbacker Award!



Congratulations to Austin Den Hoed of Boyden, IA, a member of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on promotion to the rank of Cadet Staff Sergeant and receipt of the Wright Brothers Award!



## **Cadet Airman Promotions**



Congratulations to Banion Niles of Hot Springs, a member of the Rushmore Composite Squadron, and to Joshua Vermundson of Pierre, a member of the Pierre Composite Squadron, on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Airman and receipt of the Mary Feik Award!



Congratulations to Joseph Lasseter of New Underwood, a member of Rushmore Composite Squadron, to Rose McGeorge and Christopher Ward, both of Miller and both members of the Miller Flight, and to Darion Osterkamp of Onida, a member of the Pierre Composite Squadron, on their promotion to The rank of Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the Arnold Award!



Congratulations to Isaiah Lasseter of New Underwood, a member of Rushmore Composite Squadron, and Grace Ingebretsen of Luverne, MN, a member of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on promotion to the rank of Cadet Airman and receipt of the Curry Award!

