



“THE SKYCHASER” – COMMUNITY EDITION

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for NOVEMBER 2019

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

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WING TIPS



INCIDENT COMMAND STAFF

- **NOVEMBER SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE:**
On Friday, 8 November, in preparation for the Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) the staff of the South Dakota Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) positioned aircraft, vehicles and personnel at staging areas near the exercise area in the Black Hills. In the wee hours on 9 November the staging areas support staff began working to ensure that everyone had a hot breakfast before heading out into the chilly, windy weather while others worked to ensure the aircraft and vehicles were ready and that all personnel were appropriately dressed and equipped.

At 0845 (MT) on the 9th a series of operational briefings were held to ensure everyone was aware of what was going to take place. Foremost among those briefings was one on safety. The South Dakota Wing takes the safety and security of its personnel and equipment very seriously, especially when operating in field conditions. The planning sections then went to work and assigned search areas for four CAP aircraft which then departed from their staging areas and flew into the exercise area. Three ground teams were also briefed and dispatched to their target areas within the overall exercise area. Radio communications were established between the operational elements so information can be passed back and forth.

By 1:00PM (MT) the training objectives for the first half of the day had been successfully completed. All aircraft, vehicles and personnel had returned to their staging areas for lunch and an opportunity to go over some lessons learned for the morning. The afternoon objectives had to be adjusted due to heavy snow conditions in

the planned search area. The snow depth varied to between 6 and 30 inches, and the CAP vans were not able to deploy the ground teams to the planned areas. Also, windy conditions threatened the air-operations for the rest of the day, so the decision was made to send the aircraft back to home station before the ice-storm hit on Sunday morning. The ground teams were able to get in more training in searching for simulated aircraft emergency beacons in the afternoon, and finally got to enjoy a well-earned supper and camaraderie before heading home earlier than planned, so they could beat the coming winter storm.



GROUND TEAM MEMBERS



ASSEMBLING EQUIPMENT



MOVING OUT



FLIGHT CREW READY TO GO



SEARCH AIRCRAFT TAKING OFF

• **NEW COMMANDER**: Capt. Tyler Gross is the new commander of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron in Brookings. Tyler has been a member of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron for over eight years and has progressed from a cadet to an officer leader. Tyler has led the unit to several national CyberPatriot final competitions and is the Wing IT director. He is also very active in emergency services and the new SUAS program. Though Capt. Gross may be the youngest squadron commander in Wing history (not verified) he is more than qualified and has shown sound leadership. Thank you to Maj E.W. Filler for his four years of service as squadron commander. EW turned over a sound, well balanced squadron as testament to his leadership.

★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★

Noncommissioned Officer



Congratulations to Mercy Healy and Gabriel Healy, of Mitchell and both members of the Mitchell Flight, on promotion to Cadet Chief Master Sergeant and receipt of the Dr. Robert H. Goddard Award!



Congratulations to Devin Griffin of Black Hawk, a member of Rushmore Composite Squadron, on his promotion to Cadet Senior Master Sergeant and receipt of the General Jimmy Doolittle Award!



Congratulations to Emily Williams of Egan, a member of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron, on her promotion to the rank of Cadet Master Sergeant and receipt of the Charles Lindbergh Award!



Congratulations to Banion Niles of Hot Springs, a member of Rushmore Composite Squadron, and to Clara Giddings and Joshua Skelton, both of Sioux Falls and both members 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 Sibi Manian of Brookings, a member of the Big Sioux Composite Squadron, on her promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Airman and receipt of the Mary Feik Award!



Congratulations to Daniel Oye of Tea, a member of the Lincoln County Composite Squadron, and to Benjamin Barr of Brandon, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on their promotion to Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the Arnold Award!



Congratulations to Samuel McClary and Lydia McClary, both of Parker and both members of the Lincoln County Composite Squadron, and to Ryan Schultz of Sioux Falls and Charles Scotting and Ethan Scotting, both of Dell Rapid and all three members of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on promotion to Cadet Airman and receipt of the Curry Award!

