



“THE SKYCHASER” – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for JUNE 2019

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

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WING TIPS

SOUTH DAKOTA WING GROWS AGAIN: Col. David Small, commander of the South Dakota Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, reports that the Wing has activated a new unit – the Mitchell Flight in Mitchell, SD. This brings the number of CAP units in South Dakota to 9.

- **SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE:** On 1 June more than 40 Civil Air Patrol volunteers from across South Dakota gathered at the Black Hills Airport to hone their skills as aviators and first responders. Among the activities were search and rescue (SAR) training for aircrews and ground teams and orientation flights for cadets. The SAR training involved air crews searching for electronic targets similar to the emergency radio beacons activated when an airplane crashes. They then directed teams on the ground to the notional crash sites in order to practice securing the scene and searching for survivors. Three CAP aircraft were put to use throughout the event. In addition, though not part of the SAR training, the Wing conducted hands-on training with small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS). Commonly called drones, these aircraft can be used to rapidly search an area. For example, they could be operated by ground teams to quickly locate lost hikers or hunters.

- **DRONE PILOTS:** Col. Mike Beason has been approved as a sUAS (small unmanned aerial system, i.e. drone) mission pilot, instructor pilot and check pilot. He joins Lt. Col. Craig Goodrich as a sUAS mission pilot and Col. David Small as a sUAS mission pilot, instructor pilot and check pilot. We'd like to have at least eight sUAS mission pilots in the wing by the end of this year.