

ALABAMA WING

Wing Finds New Ways to Perform its Missions

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a dramatic impact on every group and organization, and Civil Air Patrol is no exception. Even so, the Alabama Wing has found ways to continue its commitment to service.

After receiving shutdown instructions in March, wing members immediately began meeting virtually. This provided opportunities for cadets and senior members to find new ways to connect and stay engaged. The skills developed will serve them well in future operations.

The wing's aerospace education program has also evolved. Space launch watch parties were held virtually with members of all ages. Virtual events were held with guest speakers from all areas of aviation, aerospace and leadership. Perhaps most

importantly, new connections were made both within and outside normal CAP opportunities.

The wing's greatest achievement during 2020 was its mission transporting COVID-19 testing kits. The wing created new partnerships with the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Medical Center, Alabama Health Department, Alabama Health Education Centers (AHEC) and other state agencies.

"These partnerships gave us the opportunity to support COVID-19 testing in rural, indigent, underserved and Hispanic communities across the entire state," said Col. James A. Harris, wing commander. "UAB provided the test kits, and CAP transported them to testing sites in these rural areas across

the state, where AHEC conducted the testing. CAP then returned the test kits, used and unused, to the UAB Medical Center."

Most kits were transported using the wing's Cessna 172 and 182 planes and its seven- and 12-passenger vans. As of Dec. 2, aircrews had totaled 70.3 flight hours and van drivers made 19 trips. The test transportation mission involved 80 members from 11 units.

"While 2020 has been unlike any year any of us has ever seen, the Alabama Wing has risen to the challenge," Harris said. "We have new skills and new partnerships to carry into the future, and we stand ready to serve our community, state and nation."



An Alabama Wing aircrew prepares to fly COVID-19 test kits to rural testing sites.

Alabama Wing 2020 Statistics

Volunteer Members

525 adult members
369 cadets
109 aircrew personnel
588 emergency responders

Squadrons

23 locations statewide

Aircraft

11 single engine
1 glider

Vehicles

22 vehicles

Interoperable Communications

10 VHF/FM repeaters
157 VHF/FM stations
36 HF stations

Missions

7 search and rescue missions
6 finds*
* Includes lives saved and finds credited with national team support
2 disaster relief missions
10 CAP, AFROTC and AFJROTC cadet orientation flight missions
7 other Air Force support missions
13 training missions

Significant Events Supported in Fiscal Year 2020

1-58th Airfield Operation Battalion
Army support at Fort Rucker

COVID-19 Mission Support

Distributing test kits and PPE;
Transporting completed test kits

Cadet Flying

525 CAP, AFROTC and AFJROTC
cadet orientation flights

Total Hours Flown

1,407

Financial

\$97,762 in state funding
\$2,592,697 value of wing's volunteer hours

National Commander

Maj. Gen. Mark E. Smith
msmith@cap.gov

Region Commander

Col. Andrea M. Van Buren
avanburen@cap.gov

Wing Commander

Col. James A. Harris
jharris0762@gmail.com

Gov. Relations Advisor

Col. Joseph M. Owens Jr.
jmowenslaw@gmail.com

Wing Info

111 S. Kuter St.
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-5936
334-953-6465

Website

alwg.cap.gov

DID YOU KNOW?

- ✓ The Alabama Wing is a well-rounded team, supporting Air Force and Army flight training requirements annually along with state-related missions.
- ✓ The wing is mission-focused, with a go-to team for hurricane disaster recovery and COVID-19 support.
- ✓ The wing is building leaders of tomorrow, providing a robust cadet training program that prepares youth for leadership opportunities.

