



ARIZONA WING

Wing Carries Out COVID-Related Missions

Though in-person squadron meetings, training classes and the annual Arizona Wing Conference became virtual in 2020, wing members were busy supporting three COVID-19-related missions.

When the U.S. surgeon general cited the critical need for blood donations during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, and after nearly 4,000 blood donation centers closed, the Arizona Wing stepped up. Within hours, the wing asked the U.S. Air Force to authorize a mission to work with the American Red Cross to open wing squadron buildings as emergency blood donation centers.

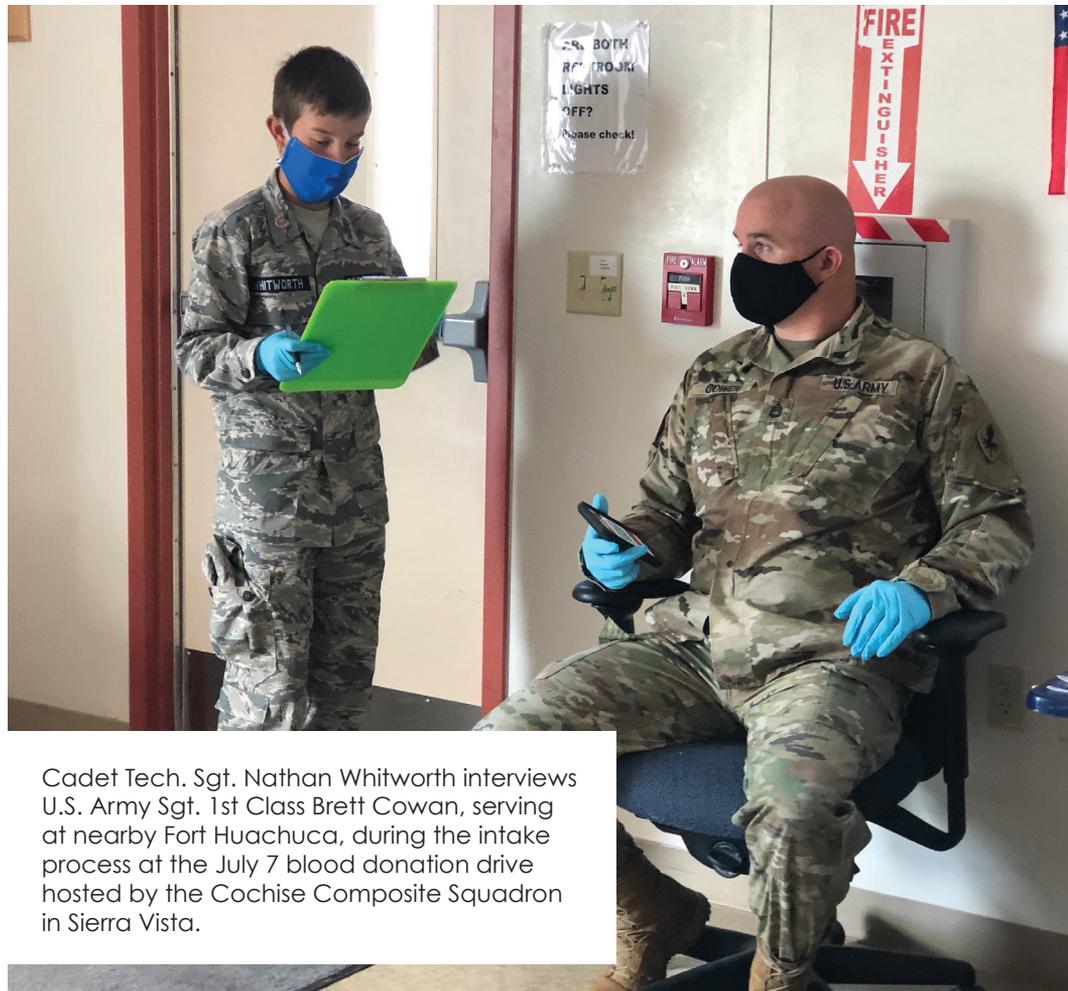
The wing held the first two blood drives under the COVID-19 mission in mid-April. In November, the wing issued a challenge inviting all CAP wings to participate in the ongoing mission. An additional 231 units of blood were donated by CAP members in 36 wings and at National Headquarters, bringing the year-end total to 1,528 units.

This is the longest-running Arizona Wing disaster relief response ever and the wing's largest single mission since World War II.

The wing added a second COVID-19 mission from mid-June until the end of September in response to a request from the Maricopa County Department of Health. Members transported food to two facilities where people affected by the pandemic were quarantined.

A third COVID-19 mission came in response to a request from the Arizona

Department of Emergency and Military Affairs in July. Arizona National Guard medical team members needed to get to several locations in southeastern Arizona to scout out potential COVID-19 testing sites. With National Guard Black Hawk helicopters on assignment helping fight the California wildfires, Arizona Wing pilots and aircraft handled the transportation needs for the Guard. The ongoing mission has also involved transporting COVID-19 test samples from test sites to labs for processing.



Cadet Tech. Sgt. Nathan Whitworth interviews U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Brett Cowan, serving at nearby Fort Huachuca, during the intake process at the July 7 blood donation drive hosted by the Cochise Composite Squadron in Sierra Vista.

Arizona Wing 2020 Statistics

Volunteer Members

670 adult members
473 cadets
215 aircrew personnel
726 emergency responders

Squadrons

29 locations statewide

Aircraft

15 single engine
1 glider

Vehicles

23 vehicles

Interoperable Communications

17 VHF/FM repeaters
261 VHF/FM stations
47 HF stations

Missions

12 search and rescue missions
 4 lives saved*
 14 finds*
* Includes lives saved and finds credited with national team support
1 counterdrug and drug interdiction mission
3 disaster relief missions
3 air defense intercept training and evaluation missions
13 CAP, AFROTC and AFJROTC cadet orientation flight missions
8 other Air Force support missions
32 training missions
1 other state support mission
2 other missions in support of partner agencies and organizations or local municipalities

Significant Events Supported in Fiscal Year 2020

Air Defense Artillery Battalion Culminating Training Event (Falcon Virgo); 58th Fighter Wing low-level route survey; Felix Hawk; winter storm support; Cochise County fire support

COVID-19 Mission Support

Distributing test kits and PPE; transporting completed test kits; hosting blood drives

Cadet Flying

698 CAP, AFROTC and AFJROTC cadet orientation flights

Total Hours Flown

2,573

Financial

\$150,000 in state funding
\$3,647,723 value of wing's volunteer hours

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DID YOU KNOW?

- ✓ Arizona Wing aircrews ensure restricted ground space at the Goldwater Gunnery Range is clear of unauthorized traffic.
- ✓ Several CAP Cadet Wings scholarship recipients in the Arizona Wing are pursuing private pilot certificates.
- ✓ Wing members served on a virtual incident management team for the Puerto Rico earthquake disaster relief mission.

