

# COLORADO WING

## Wing Makes Strides in 2020 Despite Pandemic

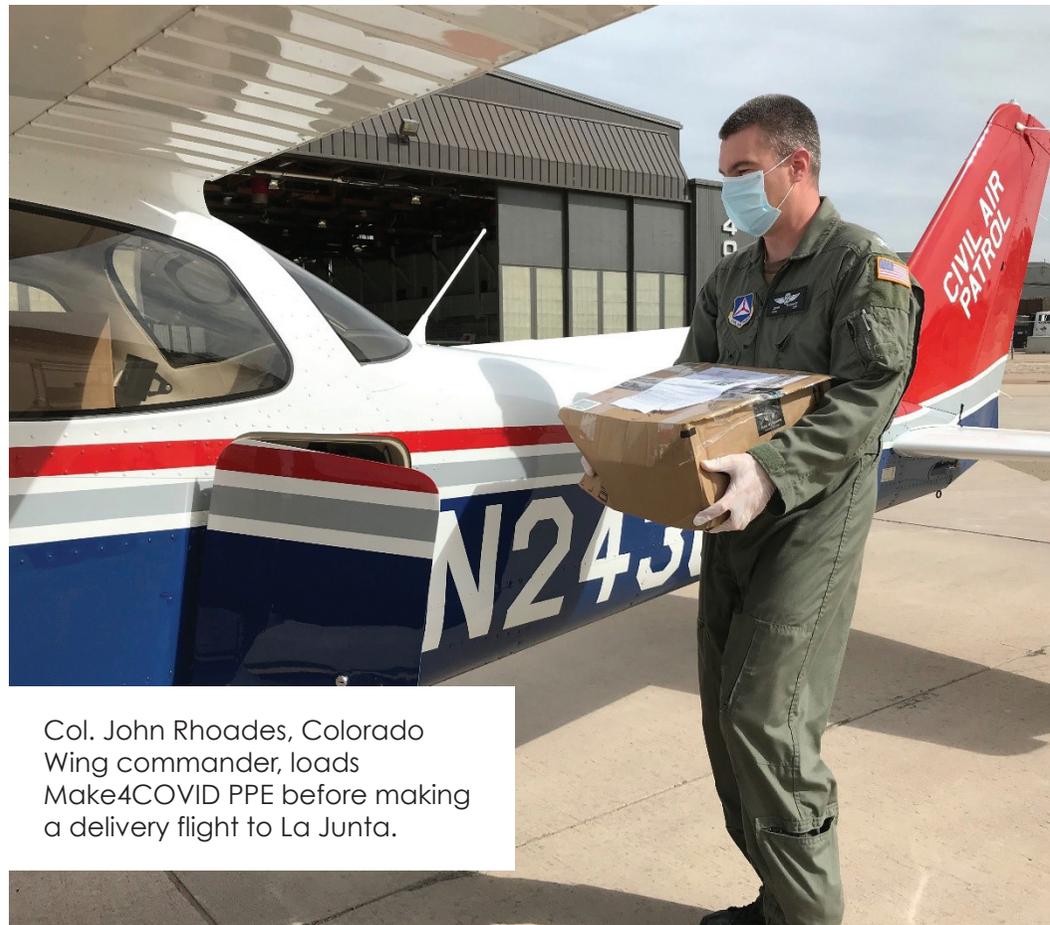
The Colorado Wing supported COVID-19 relief efforts by transporting raw materials and finished personal protective equipment (PPE) products throughout the state. As wing members were setting general flying time records, the wing totaled 125 hours on 88 flights to deliver 3 tons of PPE supplies to rural health care facilities. In addition, wing members drove 24,000 miles to collect and deliver raw materials for PPE construction.

The wing played an important role in preparation of the “Rural Hospital Playbook for Rural Health to Thrive in a COVID-19 World,” distributed nationwide. Members were also busy assisting in multiple search and rescue missions, including critical radar and cellphone forensics analysis. The Air Force Rescue Coordination Center credited the wing with 12 lives saved in fiscal 2020.

The Colorado Wing also continued to focus on providing aerospace education to schools across the state. By the end of 2020, the wing had reached 36 schools as part of its aerospace outreach program, which provides age-appropriate aerospace curriculum for

students. In addition, the wing delivered STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education kits to 65 Colorado schools. The wing has made good use of CAP’s aerospace education membership program for teachers. For a minimal one-time membership fee of \$35, educators become aerospace education members with access to dozens of free STEM training kits and the opportunity to fly in CAP aircraft.

In addition to keeping up virtual and limited in-person events, the wing’s cadet program focused on providing opportunities for young members to receive flight training. Ten cadets received flight scholarships in 2020. Despite the restrictive COVID-19 environment, three hard-working cadets achieved their solo wings and one earned a private pilot certificate.



Col. John Rhoades, Colorado Wing commander, loads Make4COVID PPE before making a delivery flight to La Junta.

# Colorado Wing 2020 Statistics

## Volunteer Members

925 adult members  
1,075 cadets  
228 aircrew personnel  
1,038 emergency responders

## Squadrons

39 locations statewide

## Aircraft

16 single engine  
2 gliders

## Vehicles

30 vehicles

## Interoperable Communications

25 VHF/FM repeaters  
315 VHF/FM stations  
51 HF stations

## Missions

10 search and rescue missions  
    12 lives saved\*  
    27 finds\*  
\* Includes lives saved and finds credited with national team support  
4 disaster relief missions  
1 air defense intercept training and evaluation mission  
25 CAP, AFROTC and AFJROTC cadet orientation flight missions  
3 other Air Force support missions  
19 training missions  
1 other state support mission  
5 other missions in support of partner agencies and organizations or local municipalities

## Significant Events Supported in Fiscal Year 2020

Felix Hawks; wildfire support

## COVID-19 Mission Support

Distributing food and critical supplies;  
Distributing test kits and PPE

## Cadet Flying

1,132 CAP, AFROTC and AFJROTC cadet orientation flights

## Total Hours Flown

2,903

## Financial

\$138,638 in state funding  
\$7,221,357 value of wing's volunteer hours

## National Commander

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## Region Commander

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## Wing Commander

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## Wing Info

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## Website

[www.cowg.cap.org](http://www.cowg.cap.org)

## DID YOU KNOW?

- ✓ The wing awarded its 24th individual replica of CAP's 2014 Congressional Gold Medal to Franklin Macon, 97, a World War II CAP cadet who also earlier received a Congressional Gold Medal as an original Tuskegee Airman. Macon died a week after his presentation and is interred at the U.S. Air Force Academy.
- ✓ Macon's replica medal was presented by U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Laura Clellan, the state's first female adjutant general.
- ✓ Macon's presentation was also attended by retired Air Force Lt. Col. Rochelle Kimbrell, the first African American female Air Force fighter pilot. She was a CAP cadet in the wing's Parker Cadet Squadron, where she commanded the drill team that became the Colorado Wing Champion and Rocky Mountain Region Champion and reached the National Drill Team Competition.

