The Idaho Wing’s continuing dedication to serving the state and nation was reflected in three major search and rescue missions in 2013.

On the most recent search, for a missing Beech Bonanza with five people on board, the wing made 14 flights in December totaling 39 hours, with an average of more than 20 members a day supporting the mission. The aircraft was located by ground searchers on Jan. 10.

In the search for a missing Cessna 206 east of McCall in early November, wing members made six flights totaling 12 hours. An Idaho Army National Guard helicopter located the plane on the third day of the search.

The Idaho Wing also participated in the search for two missing hikers at Craters of the Moon National Monument in October, providing a day and night visual search as well as an aerial photography mission that produced a package of images for the National Park Service for potential posting and public viewing. That new crowdsourcing approach was also used in the search for the missing Beech Bonanza.

During 2013 the wing also increased its available pilots from eight to 16, a significant advancement in overall mission capability.

The wing concluded the year with its Wreaths Across America observance, with a member-led coalition of veterans and community residents placing remembrance wreaths on all of the gravesites at the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery in Eagle.
Advances in technology — including digital electronic direction finders, infrared cameras that register heat signatures, real-time full-motion video, in-flight chat capabilities and airborne public address systems — have enhanced CAP’s SAR capabilities.

By the Numbers
CAP annually conducts 90 percent of inland search and rescue missions in the continental U.S. as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and other agencies.

550 single-engine airplanes — one of the largest fleets of single-engine piston aircraft in the world.
8,243 aircrew personnel and 4,028 ground team members.
31,854 qualified personnel trained to federal standards completed 142 disaster relief missions for federal, state and local agencies.

With aerial photography now CAP’s number one emergency services’ mission, nearly 80 percent of aircraft are equipped with cameras.

Air Force Rescue Coordination Center credited CAP’s cell phone forensics and radar forensics teams with 30+ saves.

CAP aircrews flew 1,250 hours during air defense exercises in 2013, helping prepare fighter units across the country for homeland security missions.

Aircrews conducting counterdrug and drug interdiction operations flew 7,017 hours helping law enforcement agencies seize $442 million in illegal drugs and currency, leading to 247 arrests. CAP aircrews were involved in 188 counterdrug missions in 2013.
Core Values  CAP instills the organization’s core values in its cadets — respect, integrity, volunteer service and excellence. Cadets are drug-free role models in their communities and schools.

Community Service  CAP cadets serve their communities in a myriad of ways, including collecting and distributing food and clothing to the needy, carrying out cleanup campaigns and meeting logistical needs for aviation-related events like air shows.

Wreaths Across America  Every December, in all 52 wings and even overseas, cadets participate in Wreaths Across America observances, presenting the colors and placing wreaths on veterans’ graves in national cemeteries and at war memorials.

Career Exploration  CAP annually offers more than 30 National Cadet Special Activities, ranging in focus from how to fly powered airplanes or gliders to mastery of emergency services skills and techniques.

Flying High  The opportunity to fly is the major attraction CAP offers youth. During 2013, CAP’s pilots flew cadets on 32,893 orientation flights.

Encampments  Encampments offer cadets in-depth training in key aspects of the cadet program, enabling them to apply classroom principles to real-world needs.

Scholarships  More than $300,000 in college and flight scholarships are available to CAP cadets.
CAP’s Aerospace Education (AE) program, consisting of inquiry-based science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) products, annually inspires over 25,000 cadets and about 250,000 K-12 students to pursue those careers.

More than 20,000 youth in 28 states are K-6 Aerospace Connections in Education (ACE) program kids. The no-cost program enriches academics, character education and physical fitness with an engaging grade-specific curriculum.

Teacher Orientation Program (TOP) Flights provide educators the opportunity to experience firsthand the excitement of flying and to expand their aeronautical knowledge, which benefits 25,000 students annually.

STEM Education

More than 30 no-cost aerospace education products and programs generate interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics careers for about 275,000 cadets and youth nationwide.

STEM Kits

Nearly 50,000 K-12 youth across the country were exposed to career exploration programs associated with astronomy, flight simulation, model and remote-controlled aircraft, robotics and rocketry, thanks to free STEM kits funded by the National Defense Education Program.

CyberPatriots

Civil Air Patrol is a leader in the Air Force Association’s All Service Division national high school CyberPatriot program. CAP cadets were named national champions in 2011 and 2012, and last year the South Dakota team finished first in competition to operate and secure a basic network.

Eye on the Future

The CyberPatriot program, complemented by CAP’s cyber security educational materials, is grooming participants for future cyber security careers.