

KENTUCKY WING

Wing Continues Vigilant Efforts During Pandemic

Kentucky Wing members have been contributing to the COVID-19 response since April, when the Elizabethtown Composite Squadron began supporting local food bank operations. “This is where the Kentucky Wing is the resource of choice for communities, due to well-positioned local units and trained CAP members throughout the state,” said Col. Darrel Williamson, wing commander.

In recent years, organizations such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the American Red Cross

have frequently turned to Civil Air Patrol in crisis situations, as its members are not new to supporting humanitarian aid missions. The Kentucky Wing is prepared to mobilize skilled emergency services personnel trained to provide a variety of support services.

In Boyle and Hardin counties, numerous Kentucky Wing cadets with required FEMA training were able to assist at food banks, where they stocked inventory. Other members delivered food and supplies to shut-ins or individuals unable to travel to obtain aid.

“Our cadets continue to display a high degree of professionalism and stand vigilant to man the food bank stations as long as needed,” said Capt. Nick Birt, site coordinator in Danville, where the assistance efforts began in June. “They have continued to do so throughout the summer, fall and now into the winter months. They continue to seek out future opportunities to be of service to the commonwealth and their local communities.”



Capt. Kay Scheffler of the Frankfort Composite Squadron volunteers at the First Church of God Food Bank in Danville. *Photo by Capt. Nick Birt, Kentucky Wing*

Kentucky Wing 2020 Statistics

Volunteer Members

400 adult members
323 cadets
95 aircrew personnel
479 emergency responders

Squadrons

25 locations statewide

Aircraft

8 single engine

Vehicles

18 vehicles

Interoperable Communications

12 VHF/FM repeaters
173 VHF/FM stations
25 HF stations

Missions

2 search and rescue missions
2 finds*

* Includes finds credited with national team support

7 CAP, AFROTC and AFJROTC cadet orientation flight missions

4 other Air Force support missions

7 training missions

2 other state support missions

Significant Events Supported in Fiscal Year 2020

19th Air Support Operations Squadron training; Pendleton County photo surveys for the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

COVID-19 Mission Support

Distributing food and critical supplies

Cadet Flying

233 CAP, AFROTC and AFJROTC cadet orientation flights

Total Hours Flown

823

Financial

\$26,000 in state funding
\$1,958,904 value of wing's volunteer hours

National Commander

Maj. Gen. Mark E. Smith
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Wing Info

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DID YOU KNOW?

- ✓ On Sept. 11, 2001, a Kentucky Wing plane based in Louisville was the only aircraft flying in the U.S. other than military jets, as it was tasked with transporting blood supplies to the New York area after the 9/11 terrorist attacks.
- ✓ In 1959, the wing assisted in recovery efforts after a U.S. Air Force B-52 and KC-135 collided in midair near Hardinsburg.
- ✓ The wing has presented 10 World War II-era CAP volunteers or members of their families with replicas of the Congressional Gold Medal bestowed to the organization in December 2014 for its wartime service.

