

MICHIGAN WING

Wing Proves Uniquely Qualified to Serve During Crisis

The Michigan Wing demonstrated its willingness and ability to carry out multiple lifesaving disaster relief missions even during the difficult times of an international pandemic.

During the early days of the COVID-19 epidemic, with Michigan hospitals reaching capacity, the U.S. Army and Michigan National Guard began establishing a 1,000-bed overflow hospital at the TCF Center in Detroit. They reached out to the Michigan Wing for assistance in staffing the facility. The wing immediately responded with trained members, providing a combined 5,760 volunteer -hours and 100 ground missions to help oversee and ultimately shut down the facility.

One of the wing's responsibilities was to provide an incident management team to ensure smooth, coordinated operations. The wing was called on again to wind down a similar 250-bed facility at SCS Regional Care Facility in Novi, providing another 600 hours of volunteer service. The wing's actions helped accelerate the closing by at least a week, saving the state millions of dollars and thousands of work hours.

The wing was also asked to assist the State Police and State Emergency Operation Center by taking a lead role in distributing COVID-19 test kits and personal protective equipment (PPE) to a variety of locations, including state correctional facilities throughout the Upper Peninsula. In addition, wing

members brought test samples back to a central lab for analysis. Nearly 2,500 test kits, 6,000 samples and over 100,000 pieces of PPE were distributed. The wing was initially tasked because of need, then requested because of its demonstrated skills, expertise and efficiency.

While supporting the pandemic response, the wing was called on again to assist with a second Presidentially Declared Disaster when two dams failed along the Tittabawassee River in Gladwin County. The wing coordinated with the state Emergency Medical agency and Federal Emergency Management Agency Region V to provide high-resolution aerial video reconnaissance for damage assessment and evaluation.

The Michigan Wing provided the incident commander and a complete incident management team for the Detroit Regional Field Hospital. The joint team included Army and Air National Guard personnel, Civil Air Patrol, the National Public Health System, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and local health systems. A portion of the joint team is shown here. Photo by Lt. Col. Robert Bowden, Michigan Wing



Michigan Wing 2020 Statistics

Volunteer Members

745 adult members
517 cadets
174 aircrew personnel
830 emergency responders

Squadrons

50 locations statewide

Aircraft

12 single engine
2 gliders

Vehicles

20 vehicles

Interoperable Communications

13 VHF/FM repeaters
180 VHF/FM stations
38 HF stations

Missions

3 search and rescue missions
 0 lives saved*
 3 finds*

* Includes lives saved and finds credited with national team support
6 disaster relief missions
13 air defense intercept training and evaluation missions
13 CAP, AFROTC & AFJROTC cadet orientation flight missions
8 other Air Force support missions
8 training missions
1 other missions in support of partner agencies and organizations or local municipalities

Significant Events Supported in Fiscal Year 2020

Fertile Keynotes; Cold Regions Test Center Military Training Route Low-Level Route Survey; Midland Flooding Support

COVID-19 Mission Support

Augmenting EOCs; Distributing Test Kits & PPE

Cadet Flying

472 CAP, AFROTC & AFJROTC cadet orientation flights

Total Hours Flown

1,815

Financial

\$3,995,398 value of wing's volunteer hours

Wing Commander

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DID YOU KNOW?

- ✓ The TCF Medical Center mission in Detroit marked the first time a CAP incident command team is known to have served as the lead directly managing a multi-agency incident management structure and reporting directly to a state emergency operations center.
- ✓ Both a CAP national commander and national vice commander have been former Michigan Wing members.
- ✓ As a result wing support, the Michigan Air National Guard was able to host the first MQ-9 Reaper training in the state in 2019. Happened during FY2019

