

# MISSISSIPPI WING

## Wing Supports State Following Deadly Tornadoes

The Mississippi Wing responded to unprecedented deadly tornadoes in April. At least nine twisters cut a devastating swath through the Magnolia State on Easter Sunday, leaving 14 people dead and buildings and hundreds of homes destroyed or damaged. The two most powerful tornadoes struck in southeast Mississippi, with one killing three people in Jones County.

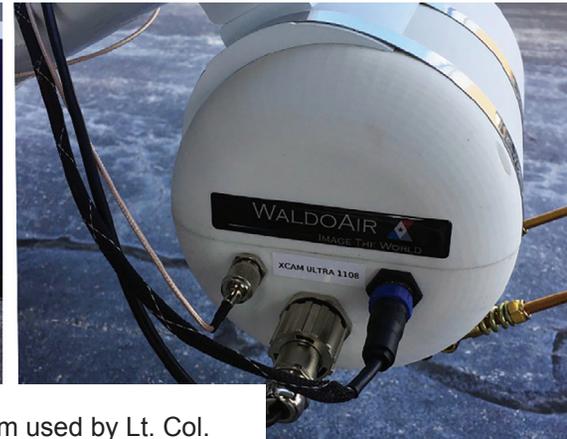
The National Weather Service in Jackson reported the preliminary paths for the two long-track tornadoes in southeast Mississippi covered a combined total of more than 150 miles. One formed in Jefferson Davis County and tracked for 68 miles. It had a maximum width of at least 2 miles and was the third-largest ever recorded in the U.S. The second tornado started in

Lawrence County and continued for 82.5 miles, with a maximum width of 1 mile.

Lt. Col. Garrett Tirpak piloted a post-disaster assessment mission in support of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency to assess the damage in south Mississippi's Pine Belt area, including Covington, Smith, Jones, Jefferson,

Lawrence and Walthall counties. The National Weather Service reported that tornado's recorded wind speed about 170 mph.

Marking a first for the Mississippi Wing, Tirpak used the WaldoAir aerial photography system, provided by the world leader in design and manufacture of low-cost aerial imaging systems.



This is the WaldoAir photography system used by Lt. Col. Garrett Tirpak, CAP pilot and Singing River Senior Squadron commander, and his Mississippi Wing aircrew.



# Mississippi Wing 2020 Statistics

## Volunteer Members

322 adult members  
146 cadets  
82 aircrew personnel  
275 emergency responders

## Squadrons

15 locations statewide

## Aircraft

6 single engine

## Vehicles

13 vehicles

## Interoperable Communications

9 VHF/FM repeaters  
118 VHF/FM stations  
25 HF stations

## Missions

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

## Significant Events Supported in Fiscal Year 2020

MDWR Coast Waters Recon (aka Sundown Patrols); Pearl River flood support; Columbus AFB low-level route survey; Easter tornado support; Felix Hawk; Exercise America's Shield

## Cadet Flying

176 CAP, AFROTC and AFJROTC cadet orientation flights

## Total Hours Flown

638

## Financial

\$67,876 in state funding  
\$1,208,083 value of wing's volunteer hours

## National Commander

Maj. Gen. Mark E. Smith  
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## Region Commander

Col. Andrea M. Van Buren  
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## Interim Wing Commander

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## Gov. Relations Advisor

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## Wing Info

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## Website

[www.mswg.cap.gov](http://www.mswg.cap.gov)

## DID YOU KNOW?

- ✓ The Mississippi Wing actively participated in Operation Deepwater Horizon, which encompassed 118 days of operation in 2010.
- ✓ In 2007, a wing search crew located a pilot who had crashed his aircraft and subsequently spent 54 hours trapped inside the wreckage before being rescued.
- ✓ The wing continues to perform Sundown Patrol flights along the Mississippi Gulf Coast looking for boaters in distress, resulting in numerous rescues.

