

MONTANA WING

Wing Committed to Serving Communities

The Montana Wing worked harder than ever during 2020 to serve Montana and its residents during the COVID-19 pandemic, nearly tripling the wing's impact in the Treasure State.

As 2020 ended, missions were up from the average of just two per year over the last decade to 18. This increase was largely due to the efforts of CAP's National Cell Phone Forensics Team, but wing members also strove to establish trust and build relationships throughout Montana.

The wing provided support to 11 counties, carrying out at least one COVID-19 relief mission in five. Most of the work involved shipping and receiving 378,717 pounds of food, distributing 109,942 meals, providing 906 hours of staffing in various capacities, and setting up field hospitals or shelters. So far, the total value of the COVID-19 relief to state communities is \$38,551.88.

"The Montana Wing is small, but we are striving to be a strong community-driven organization," said Col. Spencer R. Gilchrist, wing commander.

Membership remains within the normal range, and the wing has been able to carry out training and continued planning through online meetings and other distancing methods. The pandemic revolutionized how the wing does business by allowing it to adapt to changes in society and members to test new technologies.



Capt. Philip Schmidt teaches Montana Wing cadets how to conduct flight line marshaling during a training exercise in Laurel. *Photo by Lt. Col. Al Nash, Montana Wing*

Montana Wing 2020 Statistics

Volunteer Members

135 adult members
153 cadets
31 aircrew personnel
207 emergency responders

Squadrons

11 locations statewide

Aircraft

6 single engine

Vehicles

13 vehicles

Interoperable Communications

11 VHF/FM repeaters
86 VHF/FM stations
40 HF stations

Missions

4 search and rescue missions
 9 lives saved*
 11 finds*
* Includes lives saved and finds credited with national team support
2 disaster relief missions
1 CAP, AFROTC and AFJROTC cadet orientation flight mission
3 other Air Force support missions
15 training missions
1 other state support mission

Significant Events Supported in Fiscal Year 2020

Gallatin County Sheriff transportation support

COVID-19 Mission Support

Augmenting EOCs; distributing food and critical supplies

Cadet Flying

137 CAP, AFROTC and AFJROTC cadet orientation flights

Total Hours Flown

475

Financial

\$45,000 in state funding
\$841,168 value of wing's volunteer hours

National Commander

Maj. Gen. Mark E. Smith
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Region Commander

Col. Jeff Johnson
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Wing Commander

Col. Spencer R. Gilchrist
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Wing Info

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Website

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DID YOU KNOW?

- ✓ Over the years 15 Montana Wing cadets have been recognized with CAP's top cadet honor, the Gen. Carl A. Spaatz Award. Less than one-tenth of 1% of all cadets achieve the award, which carries with it automatic promotion to cadet colonel.
- ✓ The Montana Wing's cadet program continues to see a rise in promotions and influence by its young leaders – a large part of the reason the wing has fared so well during the pandemic. Cadets received 101 orientation flights, an eight-year high. That total breaks the wing's previous record of 96 flights in 2017, and members intend to surpass it again.
- ✓ The Gallatin Composite Squadron in Bozeman was selected for a CAP Quality Cadet Unit Award for the second straight year.

