



# 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  
msmith@cap.gov

## Region Commander

Col. Jeff Johnson  
jjohnson@capnhq.gov

## Wing Commander

Col. Spencer R. Gilchrist  
sgilchrist@mtwg.cap.gov

## Wing Info

P.O. Box 1887  
Great Falls, MT 59403  
406-731-3322

## Website

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

## 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.

