

# NORTH DAKOTA WING

## Wing Supports Critical Missions During COVID-19 Pandemic

With seven planes, one glider and over 230 members spread out across squadrons in Bismarck, Dickinson, Fargo, Jamestown, Grand Forks and Minot, the North Dakota Wing has remained well-prepared and -positioned to serve its communities and state despite COVID-19 restrictions. In 2020 the wing's volunteers again donated their time and talents to carry out such missions as aerial imagery, search and rescue, disaster emergency services, youth development and aerospace education.

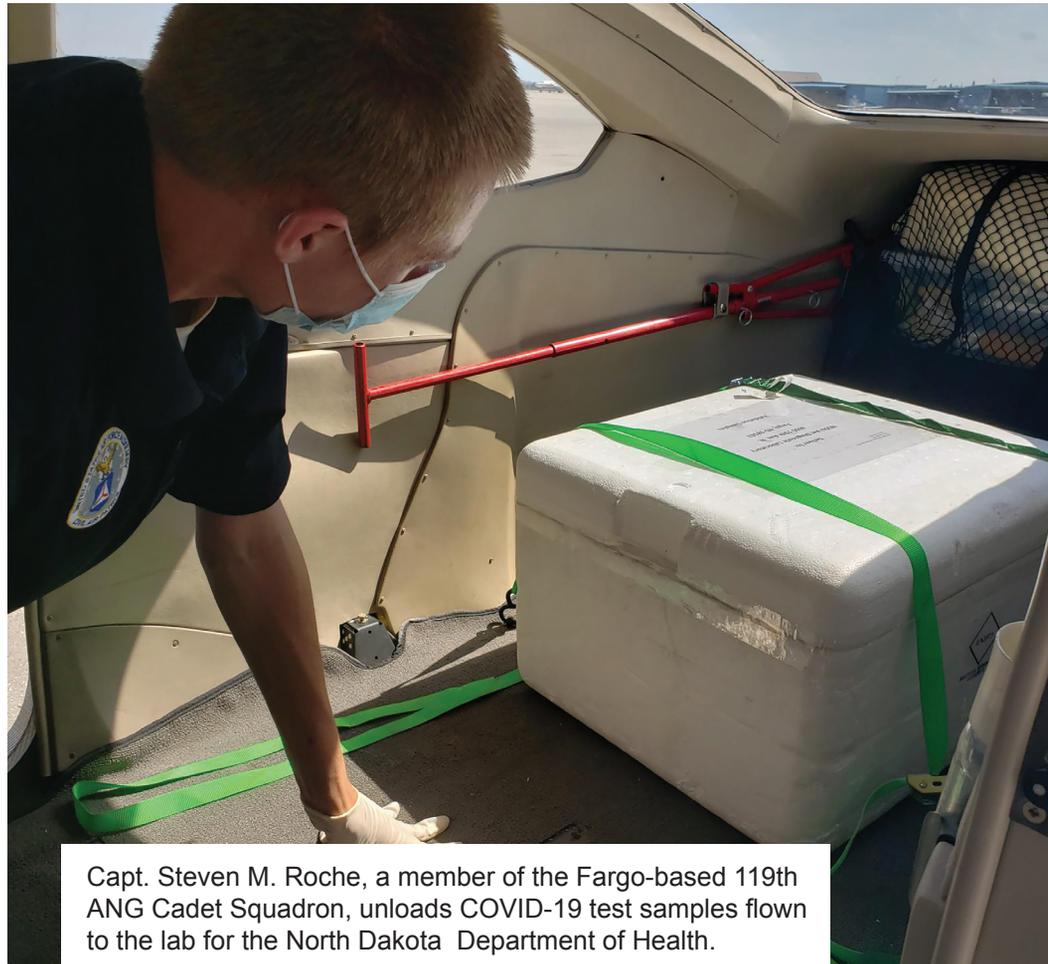
The wing conducted two missing person searches, using its FLIR-equipped plane to search during both missing person

missions throughout the night. One mission ended with a save, as credited by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center.

In August the North Dakota Department of Health tasked the wing as lead agency to quickly fly COVID-19 test kits and samples to the state's lab. Wing aircrews flew 70 sorties exceeding 109 hours transporting over 6,600 test kits/COVID-19 samples. Members also

provided support on ground teams and mission staff.

The wing's small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) capabilities have evolved from Initial Operating Capacity to fully Operational Capacity since 2019. The wing is spearheading National Institute of Science and Technology training as the proposed new standard for all CAP sUAS pilot qualifications.



Capt. Steven M. Roche, a member of the Fargo-based 119th ANG Cadet Squadron, unloads COVID-19 test samples flown to the lab for the North Dakota Department of Health.

# North Dakota Wing 2020 Statistics

## Volunteer Members

173 adult members  
84 cadets  
52 aircrew personnel  
172 emergency responders

## Squadrons

9 locations statewide

## Aircraft

7 single engine  
1 glider

## Vehicles

11 vehicles

## Interoperable Communications

10 VHF/FM repeaters  
106 VHF/FM stations  
24 HF stations

## Missions

3 search and rescue missions  
    1 life saved\*  
    2 finds\*  
\* Includes life saved and finds credited with national team support  
1 disaster relief mission  
3 CAP, AFROTC and AFJROTC cadet orientation flight missions  
3 other Air Force support missions  
7 training missions  
1 other state support mission

## Significant Events Supported in Fiscal Year 2020

Minot Air Force Base security forces exercise support

## COVID-19 Mission Support

Distributing test kits and PPE;  
Transporting completed test kits

## Cadet Flying

53 CAP, AFROTC and AFJROTC cadet orientation flights

## Total Hours Flown

886

## Financial

\$151,390 in state funding  
\$866,314 value of wing's volunteer hours

## Region Commander

Col. John O'Neill  
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## Wing Commander

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## Government Relations Advisor

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## Wing Info

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## Website

ndwg.cap.gov

## DID YOU KNOW?

- ✓ The North Dakota Wing was the first in Civil Air Patrol with a FLIR (forward-looking infrared) camera system attached to a CAP plane.
- ✓ The wing is one of the first in CAP to transition from Initial Operating Capacity (IOC) to a fully operational CAP sUAS (small Unmanned Aerial Systems) program.
- ✓ Wing aircrews flew 57 sorties totaling 133.4 hours in support of initial training and certification of the North Dakota Army National Guard Air Defense Artillery Shooter Battalion's deployment to the National Capital Region.

