

SOUTH DAKOTA WING

Wing Adapts to COVID-19 Challenges

Despite difficulties arising from the pandemic and related restrictions, the South Dakota Wing's more than 400 members continued to live by Civil Air Patrol's core values: Respect, Volunteer Service, Integrity and Excellence.

As exhibited by a search and rescue mission on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation on Thanksgiving weekend, wing members responded quickly and competently when called on. In

coordination with the Oglala Lakota County sheriff and the Oglala Sioux Tribe, wing searchers were able to find a missing 14-year-old boy.

The South Dakota Wing continues to show excellence in the growth of its small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS) program. The wing continues to acquire updated sUAS and uses them in search and rescue and other missions.

The wing also assisted the South Dakota Air National Guard in November with training for "slow-and-low" aerial interceptions, as the Guard's F-16s intercepted a propeller-driven CAP Cessna 182 plane. Besides helping the Guard train, the exercise also served as an excellent training opportunity for wing members.

Lt. Col. Todd Epp (left), South Dakota Wing chief of staff, and Chief Master Sgt. Blake Parke, the wing's external aerospace education officer, work to get an sUAS operating during a Sioux Falls Composite Squadron aerospace education event.



South Dakota Wing 2020 Statistics

Volunteer Members

318 adult members
142 cadets
63 aircrew personnel
250 emergency responders

Squadrons

12 locations statewide

Aircraft

6 single gliders
1 glider

Vehicles

19 vehicles

Interoperable Communications

11 VHF/FM repeaters
107 VHF/FM stations
30 HF stations

Missions

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

Significant Events Supported in Fiscal Year 2020

114th Fighter Wing low-level route survey; 28th Bomb Wing low-level route survey; Felix Keynote; Ellsworth AFB emergency training support

COVID-19 Mission Support

Delivery of vaccine to rural areas of South Dakota

Cadet Flying

267 CAP, AFROTC and AFJROTC cadet orientation flights

Total Hours Flown

761

Financial

\$45,390 in state funding
\$1,283,493 value of wing's volunteer hours

Region Commander

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Wing Info

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DID YOU KNOW?

- ✓ Lt. Col. Lois Schmidt, a member of the Pierre Composite Squadron, was one the wing's earliest members as a cadet serving during World War II in the same squadron.
- ✓ Nearly every lawmaker in South Dakota's 105-member Legislature is a member of the South Dakota Wing's Legislative Squadron.
- ✓ Because South Dakota is a large state geographically, the wing held cadet aerospace education days on the state's east and west sides to accommodate travel and more opportunities for orientation flights.

