

MISSOURI WING | 2024



Lt. Col. Keith Monteith reports the drone teams' results to the exercise evaluation operations center. Monteith commands the Missouri Wing's Gateway Senior Squadron and served as air operations branch director for the CAP mission.

Missouri Wing Participates in Urban Earthquake Damage Exercise

The Missouri Wing's vital role in working with multiple agencies when emergencies arise was on display in July during a three-day operation in downtown St. Louis focusing on assessing simulated widespread building damage caused by a massive earthquake.

Two of the wing's small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (drone) teams stepped up to assist during the Dense Urban Terrain Exercise. Facilitated by the Michigan National Guard's Task Force 46 in cooperation with the Missouri National Guard, the event allowed local and military emergency responders to coordinate, deploy, and mitigate dangerous scenarios set in the days after a large-scale catastrophe.

Occurring in the vicinity of St. Louis' Busch Stadium and the Missouri River between Grafton and St. Charles, the exercise involved reconnaissance, urban search and rescue, mass casualty decontamination, and structural and infrastructure damage assessment following a simulated 8.4 magnitude earthquake in the New Madrid Seismic Zone. More than 40 agencies participated.

"Our two CAP sUAS teams responded to requests for sUAS support in assessing the roofs and sides of buildings with suspected damage, using simulated images to show what the sUASes were capable of providing," said Lt. Col. Keith Monteith, air operations branch director for the CAP mission.

Because of exercise restrictions, no actual drone flights occurred.

"As with all of our mission capabilities, CAP's sUAS capabilities are an asset available for agencies seeking resources to respond in the event of a disaster," said Maj. Sam Samarasinghe, incident commander for the CAP mission.

"Our ability to work with different agencies in the sphere of disaster relief will ensure continued relevance for CAP as new technologies come online and we are able to expand our offerings," Samarasinghe said. "This recent exercise ... is just one example."

The Missouri Wing is an active participant in the state's New Madrid Seismic Zone earthquake plan and participates regularly in earthquake training missions.

STATS 2024

MISSOURI WING



Volunteer Members

610 adult members
473 cadets
93 aircrew personnel
631 emergency responders

Squadrons

28 locations statewide

Aircraft

9 single-engine
1 glider

Vehicles

20 vehicles

Interoperable Communications

14 VHF/FM repeaters
402 VHF/FM stations
42 HF stations

Missions

2 search and rescue mission
1 find*

** Includes find credited with national team support*

15 CAP, Air Force ROTC, and Junior ROTC cadet orientation flight missions

3 other Air Force support missions

29 training missions

1 other state support mission

3 other missions in support of partner agencies and organizations or local municipalities

Significant Events Supported in Fiscal Year 2024

Whiteman AFB low-level route survey

Missouri Department of Natural Resources Minuteman II intercontinental ballistic missile site surveys

Cadet Flying

663 CAP, Air Force ROTC, and Junior ROTC cadet orientation flights

Total Hours Flown

1,396

Financial

\$40,005 in state funding
\$4,156,452 value of wing's volunteer hours

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