

NEBRASKA WING | 2024



A wing aircrew took this photo on a Firewatch mission in western Nebraska.

Wing Assists in Nebraska Wildfire Relief Response

Since 2021, the Nebraska Wing has strengthened its efforts to maintain readiness to respond to Firewatch flights, supporting the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency and the Nebraska Fire Service. During these missions, wing aircrews provide high-resolution aerial photographs taken at low altitudes along with precise geolocation data for use in targeting assistance and prioritizing fire relief response efforts. The aircraft are equipped with a VHF-FM communications system that allows direct coordination with ground-based fire teams.

The Firewatch mission's focal area is the Pine Ridge region in northwestern Nebraska. The area is a rugged escarpment known for its forested buttes and canyons. Volunteer fire departments in the region, spanning from Harrison to Gordon, initiate Firewatch flights

during convective weather, typically from May-September, though increasing and prolonged dry/drought conditions have extended the operational window later into the fall.

"Their team is very top-notch and dedicated to volunteering their time to aid in protecting land and valuables at risk. I greatly appreciate everyone's help through this fire season," said Branden Martens, Chadron Volunteer Fire Department chief.

The Nebraska Wing has a five-year memorandum of understanding with the Emergency Management Agency and the Fire Service, effective through Dec. 31, 2027. From June 25-Sept. 30, aircrews conducted 37 Firewatch flights totaling 59 hours, spotting 17 fires while costing the state about \$10,500, with \$6,737 allocated for aircraft costs and \$3,680 for fuel.

STATS 2024

NEBRASKA

Volunteer Members

207 adult members
174 cadets
28 aircrew personnel
230 emergency responders

Squadrons

15 locations statewide

Aircraft

6 single-engine

Vehicles

14 vehicles

Interoperable Communications

13 VHF/FM repeaters
200 VHF/FM stations
38 HF stations

Missions

1 disaster relief mission
1 CAP, Air Force ROTC, and Junior ROTC cadet orientation flight mission
3 other Air Force support missions
7 training missions
1 other state support mission

Significant Events Supported in Fiscal Year 2024

Offutt AFB sUAS support
Storm damage support
State fire patrols

Cadet Flying

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

Total Hours Flown

501

Financial

\$40,200 in state funding
\$1,460,460 value of wing's volunteer hours

National Commander

Maj. Gen. Regena M. Aye
raye@cap.gov

Region Commander

Col. Thomas B. Theis
ttheis@ncr.cap.gov

Wing Commander

Col. David Plum
dplum@cap.gov

Government Relations Adviser

Maj. Jamal Omar
jamal.omar@ndcap.us

Wing Info

28735 Grumman Drive
Eugene, OR 97402
402-882-5227

Website

newg.cap.gov

