

NORTH DAKOTA

WING | 2024



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— Col. Justin Baier,
former wing commander

This photo imagery of the Elk Horn Wildfire site was taken by a North Dakota Wing aircrew from the Roughrider Composite Squadron in Dickinson.

North Dakota Wing Joins Historic Wildfire Battle

As North Dakota’s fields dried out and winds picked up in October, the state entered what proved to be a historic wildfire season, leaving more than 100,000 acres engulfed in flames.

With no signs of the fires slowing down and local responders overwhelmed, a multi-agency response was mobilized. Along with fire departments in neighboring political subdivisions and the National Guard, the North Dakota Wing stepped up to assist. Tasked with conducting damage assessment flyovers, the wing provided critical information tasking agencies used to assess fire damage and guide response efforts. These operations were conducted at a fraction of the cost of similar missions by other responders, helping maximize resources during the emergency.

The wing employs a range of resources, from small aircraft flights to small sUAS (drone) imagery. These assets are deployed not only during emergencies like

wildfires but also as part of a broader mission of emergency management, providing valuable resources readily available to support North Dakota and respond to the nation’s call when needed.

“I couldn’t be prouder of our team jumping in to support North Dakota during these historic wildfires,” said Col. Justin Baier, former wing commander. “Working alongside our state’s top-notch responders, we’ve been able to provide crucial aerial data to help guide efforts on the ground. It’s an honor to stand with our partner agencies to protect the communities and landscapes that mean so much to us all.”

The North Dakota Wing’s dedicated volunteers are always ready and willing to answer the call to serve their community, state, and nation, tirelessly donating time and energy to support emergency response efforts whenever and wherever they’re needed most.

STATS 2024

NORTH DAKOTA



Volunteer Members

215 adult members
118 cadets
49 aircrew personnel
219 emergency responders

Squadrons

11 locations statewide

Aircraft

7 single-engine
1 glider

Vehicles

11 vehicles

Interoperable Communications

10 VHF/FM repeaters
135 VHF/FM stations
27 HF stations

Missions

3 search and rescue mission
2 finds*
** Includes finds credited with national team support*
1 CAP, Air Force ROTC, and Junior ROTC cadet orientation flight mission
2 other Air Force support missions
14 training missions
2 other missions in support of partner agencies and organizations or local municipalities

Significant Events Supported in Fiscal Year 2024

Search and rescue support
Cadet orientation flight support

Cadet Flying

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

Total Hours Flown

1,021

Financial

\$176,664 in state funding
\$1,405,023 value of wing's volunteer hours

National Commander

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