

# SOUTH DAKOTA WING | 2024



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— Col. Kevin Pegelow,  
South Dakota Wing commander

*The South Dakota Wing expanded partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies during the past year, including participation in joint training and actual search and disaster relief missions.*

## Civil Air Patrol Expands South Dakota Interagency Partnerships

The South Dakota Wing participated in a multi-agency search-and-rescue exercise in August featuring a scenario in which U.S. Air Force B-1 aircrew members simulated ejecting after an in-flight emergency. The exercise, coordinated by Ellsworth Air Force Base, was the latest in a growing series of interagency training and actual missions the wing performed and supported.

“Civil Air Patrol played a critical role in the Ellsworth search and rescue exercise with the knowledge and capabilities they contributed,” said Air Force Senior Airman James Ball, a survival, evasion, and escape specialist from the 28th Operations Support Squadron. “They effectively used their equipment to assist in the aircrew recovery.”

The wing contributed ground search team leaders and members, communication support, and drone search and photography capability, collaborating with active-duty Air Force personnel and search-and-rescue teams from the Pennington and Lawrence County sheriff’s offices.

“CAP’s unique capabilities in aerial and drone search and photography are in growing demand among local, state, tribal and federal agencies in South Dakota,” said Col. Kevin Pegelow, South Dakota Wing commander. “These partnerships fulfill one of CAP’s key missions of support for local authorities, where the need exceeds local resources.”

Other missions CAP performed with or for partner agencies in 2024 included airborne flood photography for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the state, and a water conservation district; a cold-case missing person search for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Oglala Sioux Tribe; service as airborne targets for Air National Guard F-16 intercept training; conventional missing person searches; and a massive drone multispectrum photo data collection project for researchers at the School of Mines and Technology.

# STATS 2024

## SOUTH DAKOTA



### Volunteer Members

337 adult members  
149 cadets  
40 aircrew personnel  
256 emergency responders

### Squadrons

8 locations statewide

### Aircraft

5 single-engine

### Vehicles

18 vehicles

### Interoperable Communications

10 VHF/FM repeaters  
169 VHF/FM stations  
33 HF stations

### Missions

2 search and rescue missions  
1 find\*  
*\* Includes find credited with national team support*  
2 air defense intercept training and evaluation missions  
1 CAP, Air Force ROTC, and Junior ROTC cadet orientation flight mission  
7 other Air Force support missions  
16 training missions  
2 other state support missions  
2 other missions in support of partner agencies and organizations or local municipalities

### Significant Events Supported in Fiscal Year 2024

28th Bomb Wing low-level route survey  
MQ-9 Reaper drone escort  
Felix Keynote  
Flood support

### Cadet Flying

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

### Total Hours Flown

816

### Financial

\$60,023 in state funding  
\$1,774,742 value of wing's volunteer hours

### National Commander

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