Civil Air Patrol
U.S. Air Force Auxiliary

CALIFORNIA WING



Volunteers Stand Ready to Lead the Nation in Disaster Recovery

Capt. Keith Breton of the California Wing inspects a WaldoAir Ultra 50 imaging pod.

In 2021 alone, the state of California suffered 11 major and hundreds of minor wildfires. To support its emergency services partners, the California Wing now has available two WaldoAir Ultra 50 imaging pods, advanced imaging systems originally designed to conduct aerial mapping and 3D image surveys of agricultural land. During the Camp Fire in 2018, the wing's experimental use of a similar system yielded outstanding results. As disaster recovery is a new use for the Ultra 50s, however, no manual provided guidance on how to best employ it. So the California Wing wrote the book on it.

Civil Air Patrol mission pilots and observers from the wing flew the Ultra 50 systems on over 100 real-world and training sorties. Wing volunteers from up and down the state then developed a new procedure for processing and delivering the images to CAP partners via the internet. The result was the "Waldo Air Ultra 50 User's Guide." Other wings in CAP's Pacific and Southeast regions are using the guide and coming to the California Wing for valuable training.

The wing is leading the way in the use of photographic and 3D digital modeling tools, which will provide invaluable information to disaster recovery planners in the future.

Meanwhile, the California Wing's senior members and cadets continued to support pandemic relief efforts safely and professionally while still fulfilling their aerospace education and cadet program missions in a time of national need.

California Wing

2021 STATISTICS

Volunteer Members
1,835 adult members
1,501 cadets
436 aircrew personnel
2,054 emergency responders

Squadrons
76 locations statewide

Aircraft
26 single-engine
3 gliders

Vehicles
47 vehicles

Interoperable Communications
46 VHF/FM repeaters
540 VHF/FM stations
53 HF stations

Missions
24 search and rescue missions
12 lives saved*
40 finds*
* *Includes lives saved and finds credited with national team support*
4 disaster relief missions
2 counterdrug and drug interdiction missions
43 air defense intercept training and evaluation missions
15 CAP, Air Force ROTC, and Air Force Junior ROTC cadet orientation flight missions
5 other Air Force support missions
38 training missions
2 other missions in support of partner agencies and organizations or local municipalities

Significant Events Supported
- Felix Keynotes
- Falcon Hawks
- State wildfire response
- Joint Task Force-North support

COVID-19 Mission Support
- Distributing food and critical supplies

Cadet Flying
1,519 CAP, Air Force ROTC, and Air Force Junior ROTC cadet orientation flights

Total Hours Flown
5,677

Financial
$72,298 in state funding
$13,849,602 value of wing's volunteer hours

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