Franklin County Newsletter

MARCH 2020 - JUNE 2020

VOLUME 1, QUARTER 2

COVID-19 RELIEF

NC-145's Response to Covid-19

Civil Air Patrol, An Essential Service

By C/TSgt Aiden Richardson



CAP vans prepare to transport PPE

As the Coronavirus has ravaged the world, NC-145 has had to adapt. Without the ability to physically meet, we had to learn how to do so virtually. Since March, our members have held virtual squadron, flight, and color guard meetings, as well as virtual ES trainings. While this has been different for all of us, we have stepped up in a big way, continuing to have our squadron functions and providing members for Covid-19 relief.

Covid-19 relief has become a 65 + day mission. Very early after our state closing, NC Wing established a system to distribute supplies to North Carolina's counties. Wing ES staff working with NC Emergency Management, NC National Guard, and NC Air National Guard strategically placed distribution warehouses all over the state in an effort to transport necessary supplies to counties in need. In order for the operation to function properly, the NC Wing requested senior members to transport supplies via Civil Air Patrol vans and to have mission staff assistants (MSAs) in the distribution warehouses to process requests for supplies, log and track orders, and load supplies. Many of our NC-145 senior members participated in this distribution mission as MSAs or transport drivers, including 2nd Lt Emily Cole, 2nd Lt Angela Helbig, 1st Lt Gregory Brown, Capt Daniel Donahue, SMSgt Chris Kehrer, Lt. Col Richard Netherby, SSgt Jason Farber, and Capt Andy Williams.

SMSgt Chris Kehrer provided a statement of what he did: "My role was pretty simple. I performed driving duties on two separate missions where I drove supplies to various locations from a central warehouse using our CAP Expeditions. I also was able to perform one MSA duty at one of the distribution warehouses. Additionally, we had many Command meetings regarding the state of the Wing and how it is operating to include returning to some form of normality."

When asked about his experience, 1st Lt Greg Brown said, "For the COVID-19 Mission, I first participated by being a van driver, picking up and delivering supplies to locations. I even did a delivery to the Mocksville warehouse. Then I got training as a Mission Staff Assistant and became qualified in that skill set. Two CAP senior members are at computers, along with the NC Army and Air Force National Guard, working at the Durham Warehouse. We all work together with the North Carolina Emergency Management team. Orders come in from various counties, and we complete the online orders for the warehouse workers to pick and for the drivers to pick up and deliver."

Covid-19 Relief, cont.

While some of our senior members transported supplies, we also had some who served as MSAs in the warehouses. On being asked what the MSAs did, Lt Col Richard Netherby said the following: “I served as a MSA in the NCEM warehouse near Durham. The job was to process requests for PPE and cleaning supplies then generate the bills of lading for the shipments so that the National Guard crew could then pull the material and load it on the transport vehicles. The job involved using the NCEM program, WebEOC, on a laptop to track the requests and generate the paperwork for each shipment. We also logged arriving supplies into the program to update the stock in the warehouse.”

There is no doubt that all of the work the NC Wing is doing for Covid-19 relief is essential and has continued to help the community. We thank all of the members who volunteered, and we are proud of you!



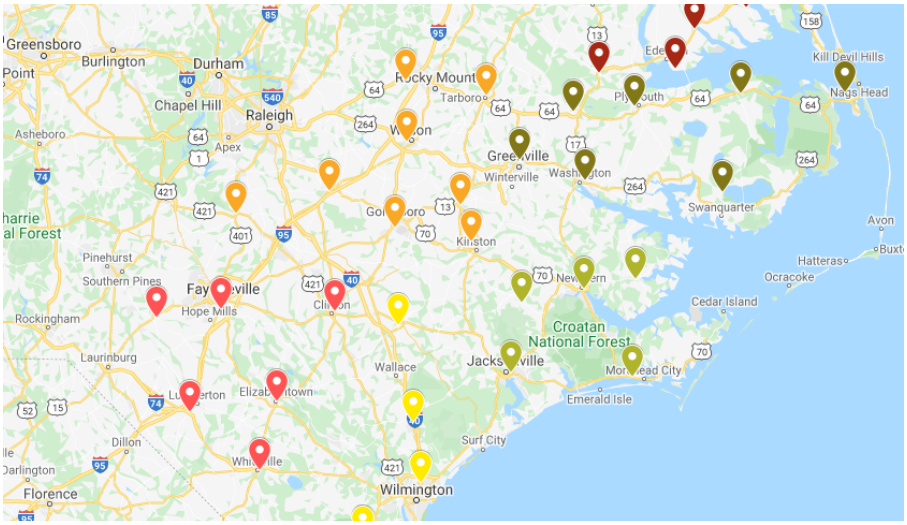
Lt Col Richard Netherby and 2nd Lt Angela Helbig serve as MSAs in the Durham warehouse.



Picture taken by 2nd Lt Cole on her transportation mission.

“As a driver for the NCWG's COVID-19 Mission, I am often on call. One afternoon, I got a call from Ground Branch that I was needed to help with some deliveries. I drove up to Triangle North Executive Airport to get our squadron's CAP van, then met up with another CAP driver in the next county over to pick up my deliveries and my assignments. The deliveries consisted of boxes of supplies. Over the next few hours, I drove all across Eastern North Carolina. I met up with representatives at five different sites. Each time I met with someone, they expressed their appreciation of the Civil Air Patrol and the service we were providing to our community during this unprecedented time. I ended up down near the coast, where after my last delivery, I was able to enjoy a gorgeous sunset over the water. It was a beautiful end to a day of service.” - 2nd Lt Emily Cole

"Thanks to all our members who are going above and beyond to meet the needs of our state and communities." - Lt Col Christopher Duemmel, Incident Commander, May 12, 2020



Map of places that received supplies from CAP vans

A Continuing Service

By C/TSgt Aiden Richardson

After Governor Cooper entered the state into Phase ll, the NC Wing alerted its members to prepare for Points of Distributions or PODs. PODs were set up all over the state to supply people with necessities. With the loss of work due to Covid-19, many people haven't had the ability to purchase everyday household items. We had many seniors and cadets volunteer for these all across the state.

C/SMSgt Joyner served at the Triangle and Rocky Mount PODS. He gave out important PPE such as masks, gloves, face shields, shoe covers, etc. to local care agencies. C/SMSgt Joyner said, "I would definitely say that missions like these are a huge reason why CAP exists. So work hard to become qualified to be able to participate! There truly is no better feeling than being able to help when needed most."

C/1st Lt Stange also served. He responded to the PODS in the Triangle area as well as the one in Nash County. When asked about his experience, he said, "As a cadet, I had the opportunity to work alongside the National Guard sorting and packaging emergency medical supplies to be picked up by nursing homes and similar facilities within the area. I have worked on PODs before, largely in Wilmington in response to hurricane Florence, but this was a much different experience. The work brought the risk into perspective and revealed to me how serious this virus is. I am just glad to have had the opportunity to be a part of the ongoing mission to stop the spread of COVID-19 in its tracks."

Captain Daniel Donahue also served at the Triangle and Nash County PODS. He assisted with traffic control and filing orders.



Left to right: 1st Lt Rich Niemi, Capt Christine Weber, C/1st Lt Joshua Stange, C/SMSgt Joshua Joyner



SMSgt Chris Kehrer with NC wing Commander, Col. Angelovich.

Congrats to our 2020 Grads!

While it is sad they are leaving us, we are excited to see where they go.

Congratulations to C/Capt Brent Whitley. Capt Whitley was awarded a type 1 AFROTC scholarship and will be attending Cedarville University.



Congratulations to C/CMSgt Ben Joyner. CMSgt Joyner is planning on enlisting in the US Air Force this fall.



Congratulations to C/CMSgt Elizabeth Helbig. CMSgt Helbig is planning on taking classes at Wake Technical Community College.



Congratulations to C/SrA Adam Perkinson. SrA Perkinson will attend East Carolina University and enroll in AFROTC.



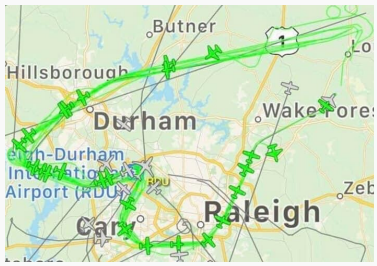
Heart Shaped Appreciation

By C/TSgt Aiden Richardson

Local pilots from the Louisburg and Triangle area got together on May 2, 2020 to do a flyover for nearby hospitals. While members were unable to support in an official Civil Air Patrol capacity, many squadron members came out to show their support to medical staff in the hospitals. Members volunteered to fly (non-CAP aircraft), marshall planes, and Major Frank Donahue was even the air boss for the event. This is just one of the many examples of how CAP training creates exciting opportunities outside of CAP. Thirty or so aircraft, many with passengers, flew over Maria Parham (Louisburg), Duke Hospital (Durham), UNC Hospital (Chapel Hill), Rex Hospital (Raleigh),WakeMed (Cary), and lastly WakeMed (Raleigh). The event was even covered by local news and media outlets. Undoubtedly all medical personnel are on the front lines of the fight against Covid-19, and this was much appreciated.



Pilots from the Triangle and Louisburg receive the briefing.



Heart shaped flight path



Ariel view of Triangle North Executive Airport



Many different aircraft participated in the medical fly-over.

Mid-Atlantic Region Ground Team Of The Year

Congratulations to NC-145! As some of you may know, the NC-145 ground team was awarded the wing ground team of the year at the wing conference in February. But, in addition to receiving wing ground team of the year, we also received the region ground team of the year in March. This is a huge accomplishment for the squadron and everyone should be very proud! Lt Col Bailey said, “It is wonderful to be able to reward and recognize all the Franklin County Composite Squadron Ground Team members for all their hard work and dedication to the Emergency Services program. I am so thankful to have such a dedicated group of selfless volunteers that are always willing to put others that are in need first. Fantastic job Falcons.”

ELT Search Mission

On May 25, 2020 (Memorial Day) Lt Col Bailey notified our ground team of a missing ELT (Emergency Locator Transmitter). By 2:30, the NC-145 ground team was released to search for the ELT. The team was comprised of Capt Daniel Donahue (Ground Team Leader), 2nd Lt Daniel Erb, SMSgt Chris Kehrer, along with Col Larry Ragland. The ground team searched until 5 pm looking for the ELT, but it had gone silent and could not be detected. Capt Michael Bennett served as the Mission Safety Officer(MSO). Capt Scott Stevens, the NCWG’s Director of Emergency Services said, "In the past two years, we have had actual missions take place on Halloween, Valentine’s Day, Christmas Eve, and during the middle of our Wing conference banquet. Our call to action never sleeps, and it doesn’t take days off. Today was another example of that and, once again, the members of NCWG stepped up and responded.”