Mission Reaches Yearend Goal of 40,000+ Units of Blood

Civil Air Patrol's Operation Pulse Lift blood donation mission reached its 2024 goal a month early. For the fifth straight year, a combination of CAP-sponsored blood donation centers and individual contributions reported by members yielded success for Operation Pulse Lift, which became a national mission at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Not only did you achieve your 2024 end-of-the-year goal of 40,000 units collected as part of the mission, but you also shattered that goal by achieving 41,384 units," said Lt. Col. Robert Ditch in an email to mission participants. Ditch, the incident commander for Operation Pulse Lift, noted that support for November’s mission activities included six blood donor center events in Arizona, Oregon, Maine, and North Carolina.

Those collections were supplemented by 125 individual member donations from 22 wings and CAP National Headquarters staff.

Each unit of blood saves up to three lives, according to the American Red Cross. That means the 41,384 collections to date through CAP has potentially saved 129,897 lives, making it the largest lifesaving mission for CAP since World War II.

“While blood collections continued to help offset the nationwide shortage of blood, members of the Kansas Wing kept the wheels turning with 18 lifesaving blood transports to 13 cities in their multistate-supported region,” Ditch said.

As the end of the calendar year approaches, the scheduling of blood donation center events will continue to accelerate, and Ditch said he expects to see more individual member donations and requests for emergency blood transports.

“At this time, members in Arizona, Texas, and Virginia wings will be hosting six blood donation centers, our last being in Leesburg, Virginia, the day before New Year’s Eve,” Ditch said.

If that schedule holds up, Operation Pulse Lift will have hosted 76 collection events at 28 locations in 15 states in 2024 — more than one event every five days during the year.