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## News Release

### IAEM-USA Announces the 2021 IAEM-USA Emergency Management Volunteer Organization of the Year Award

**Oct. 14, 2021 (Falls Church, Va.)** – The IAEM-USA Awards & Recognition Committee of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) is pleased to announce the winner of the IAEM-USA 2021 Emergency Management Voluntary Organization of the Year Award. The award will be presented at the Monday Networking Luncheon and Awards Ceremony on Oct. 18, 2021, at the 69th IAEM Annual Conference & EMEX, in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The winner of the 2021 IAEM-USA Emergency Management Voluntary Organization of the Year Award is the Arizona Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP).

During the year-long series of responses, the Arizona Wing provided the staffing for three weeks to the CAP's Type 1 Incident Management Team, supporting 93 aircrafts and 73 ground sorties in providing damage assessment photography over the Puerto Rico earthquake destruction. It also provided three and a half months of transportation and distribution of meals to homeless quarantined individuals in Arizona which included the feeding of more than 2,500 people.

In August of 2020, members of the Arizona Wing provided staffing to the Regional Area Command Incident Management Team managing the 167-volunteer response to Hurricane Laura in Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas. They also provided 52 aircraft transport sorties, moving more than 5,000 COVID-19 test kits to outlying regions of Arizona. When the State of New Mexico lab facilities were overwhelmed, Civil Air Patrol members in Arizona rendezvoused with New Mexico members, flying in samples, and providing "pony-express" ground transport to the testing labs in Arizona.

The Wing's aircrews also supported dozens of timely air transports of State of Arizona and National Guard site survey teams to multiple locations across the state. The Arizona Wing led the entire nation with the establishment of 42 temporary blood donor centers at seven locations across the state. These were set up to assist in meeting the request of the U.S. Surgeon General of the United States for Blood Donor centers, because 80% of the donor centers were lost across the nation due to COVID closures of universities/schools, churches, and businesses. These Civil Air Patrol Blood Donor Centers collected 1,291 units of blood in eight months of COVID surge operations saving (according to the American Red Cross) 3,873 lives.

The **Voluntary Organization of the Year Award** is presented to one U.S. voluntary organization that made extraordinary emergency management contributions within the United States, including the 50 states, District of Columbia, and the territories of American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands.

*IAEM-USA, the nation's largest emergency management professional association, is a non-profit professional organization representing more than 5,000 emergency management and homeland security professionals for local communities, state and federal disaster officials, private sector, non-governmental organizations, and others involved in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from all types of disasters including acts of terrorism. IAEM provides access to the largest network of emergency management experts who can provide advice and assistance; the Certified Emergency Manager program; annual scholarships; a comprehensive monthly newsletter; and more.*

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