



★ ★ ★ BIG SKY
FLYER

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SECURITY
FORCES
BACK HOME

ALL IN
THE
FAMILY

MASS
CASUALTY
EXERCISE

Chief Induction Ceremony

Chief Master Sgt.
Dale A. Gunter



Members of the 120th fighter wing wait to hear comments about the C-130 conversion June 2, 2013.
PNational Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson.

Vol. XXXV No. 8 - August 2013
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A GUARD FAMILY HISTORY

2nd Lieutenant bars passed from one generation to the next



Photo illustration by Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson

When Master Sgt. Robin Jirovsky heard of an opportunity to become an officer and serve as the 120th Fighter Wing's public affairs officer she jumped at the opportunity; applying and interviewing for the position.

Jirovsky, a New York native and graduate of Cornell University, was working as a teacher in the Chinook School System and was a traditional guardsman in the 219th RED HORSE before accepting the challenge of representing the wing's leadership to the community, state and nation.

Jirovsky attended the Academy of Military Science and following graduation March 8, 2013 was promoted to the rank of Second Lieutenant.

The day a new officer is pinned with their first set of gold bars is a memorable occasion, but Jirovsky's was extra special.

"My flight commander was handing the pins to my family members and said these were my grandfather's from when he received his commission in the Air Corps back in 1942," Jirovsky said.

The defendant's grandfather, Stanley W. Hemstreet, was commissioned as a second lieutenant March 11, 1942 -- 71 years before his granddaughter.

"When my grandmother learned that I was going to be pinned as a second lieutenant she told my mother that she still had the bars my grandfather had received when he was commissioned," said Jirovsky.

Jirovsky's mother brought the bars her grandmother had

retrieved from her trove of saved mementos and somehow gave them to Jirovsky's flight commander undetected.

"I don't know how she pulled it off," Jirovsky said. "She was with me the whole time."

When Hemstreet entered the New York Air National Guard after World War II the need for pilots was low, so Hemstreet enlisted as an enlisted mechanic on P-51 Mustangs.

"He came home to raise his family and worked in the guard to put food on the table," Jirovsky said.

With the unit's transition to C-97 cargo planes, a flying position opened up and Hemstreet was again commissioned. The following year he participated in the 1961 Berlin airlift. He eventually served as the commander of the 109th Tactical Airlift Group from 1971-1985.

In 1975, the 109th was entrusted with the first and only active mission in the Air National Guard: Supply of the Distant Early Warning (DEW Line) radar sites in Greenland on the polar ice cap.

"As commander my grandfather went to Alaska and brought the skibird mission back to New York," Jirovsky said.

Time will tell if the good fortune these gold bars brought Hemstreet at the start of his career will rub off on Jirovsky.

"I plan on putting them back in their original box when I'm done with them," Jirovsky said. "Maybe, someday, I'll be able to give them to my granddaughter."

By: Staff Sgt. Michael Touchette, 120th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



Stanley W. Hemstreet. Photo courtesy of the Hemstreet family

EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE

Airman train in base wide mass casualty exercise

Guardsmen from the 120th Fighter Wing participated in a mass casualty exercise during the June unit training assembly at the Montana Air National Guard base.

Security forces personnel, fire fighters, paramedics and medical personnel tested their training as they were run through a variety of scenarios meant to simulate possible mass casualty events.

"Each organization has different requirements that they are required to exercise annually," said Capt. Justin Hutchins, Deputy Exercise Evaluation Team Chief. "With this exercise we try to encompass all of those."

The exercise began with an active shooter scenario requiring security forces to respond rapidly to the west side of the base to locate, engage and neutralize the threat.

"Our exercise here was a home-grown violent extremist threat," said Hutchins. "We try to do that for a little added realism." Simultaneously, a report of a restricted area violator came in from the hanger, causing security forces to split their personnel between two locations on base.

"Then we rolled into improvised explosive device explosion causing a mass casualty event," said Hutchins.

The improvised explosive device explosion scene was the most dramatic scene of the day, complete with student flight airmen outfitted with realistic-looking injuries, blood and crying for help.

"Mass casualty is very important for medical to exercise annually," said Hutchins. "They get involved with our fire department, who is typically our first responders on scene for something like that." Following the improvised explosive device scenario a call came in that a fuel truck had crashed into the fire department.

"That allowed us to work on our urban search and rescue -- a capability our fire department now has," said Hutchins.

In addition to evaluating the skills of the security forces, first responders and medical personnel the exercise tested the response of the base populace as a whole. Personnel were expected to lockdown and stay out of sight during a threat situation.

"It was a very complicated scenario, but I felt that a lot of people got good training out of it," said Col. J. Peter Hronek, Commander of the 120th Fighter Wing. "It really exercises our command and control functions, our EOC functions, it keeps our security forces sharp, our first responders sharp and our airman trained in their sweeps and force protection conditions."

By Staff Sgt. Michael Touchette, 120th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



Above: 120th Security Forces personnel assess a casualty following a simulated IED attack during the base mass casualty exercise at the Great Falls International Airport June 3, 2013.

Below: 120th Security Forces personnel prepare to expeditiously evacuate a casualty following a simulated IED attack during the base mass casualty exercise at the Great Falls International Airport June 3, 2013. Secondary detonations designed to target first responders was a primary concern when entering the area.

Left: 120th Security Forces detain a suspected gunman during an active-shooter scenario at the Great Falls International Airport June 3, 2013. National Guard photos/Staff Sgt. Michael Touchette



RED HORSE AWARD

Awarded the National Guard Association of the United States for 2013

The Director of the Air National Guard announced in a letter dated May 3, 2013 that the 219th RED HORSE Squadron of the Montana Air National Guard was selected to receive a National Guard Association of the United States award for 2013.

In the letter, Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clark III congratulated the MTANG unit members for earning the NGAUS Distinguished Mission Support Plaque in the annual national competition. This is the fourth consecutive year that the 219 RHS has won this prestigious award.

"I'm very proud of the organization. To win this award four times for us is outstanding. We have a great mission and enjoy great support from the community and state and I credit those members being committed to the unit for making these things happen," said 219th REDHORSE Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Rusty Vaira.



The 219 RHS is a highly mobile civil engineering response force that supports United States Air Force military contingencies and special operations for both state and federal operations throughout the world.

The nomination for the award listed numerous locations unit members deployed to assist with training personnel or construction projects.

During the year 10 219 RHS Guardsmen supported a National Guard Bureau request and accepted a humanitarian civic assistance mission to Slunj, Croatia. While in country the unit members repaired walls for a Croatian Army medical training facility, repaired a local civilian school and trained Croatian military personnel and civilians in modern construction techniques.

The unit also supported a request from the United States Navy to construct training facilities at the John C. Stennis Space Center in Mississippi. During the deployment 34 Guardsmen completed a high priority obstacle course used by over 1000 special forces personnel annually.



Above: Members of the 219th salute during the posting of the colors at Malmstrom Air Force Base on Jan. 7, 2012. National Guard photo / Staff Sgt. John Turner.

Left: The A red horse statue symbolizing the 219th RED HORSE Squadron proudly stands outside of the administrative offices at Malmstrom Air Force Base. National Guard photo / Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson.

Closer to home, 30 Guardsmen completed a 50 foot by 150 foot K-Span structure intended to protect emergency response vehicles at Fort Harrison, Mont. in less than 30 days.

It was also noted that 219 RHS members supported deployments to Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan during the award period.

Vaira said the diversity of deployments that the 219 RHS participated in is a testament to the wide range of careers represented in the unit and the high level of experience held by the personnel.

"Our mission is to deploy in support of contingencies to the world-wide theater and also to support the state, so our mission is geared toward a lot of different construction and emergency response type activities. We are a self-contained unit so we can take the unit and go to a location, be self-supportive and we can do our job in those environments," said Vaira.

He's also impressed at the level of dedication offered to the unit by its personnel. Many of the members travel great distances to attend their unit training assemblies held at Malmstrom Air Force Base each month.

"They travel almost a combined 24,000 miles round trip to come here to a drill on any given weekend. They like the unit, they like the mission, they like the camaraderie, so I would think that really contributes to how we are able to be successful," said Vaira.

By Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson, 120th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Camp Runnamucka

Children of deployed ANG members

The Montana National Guard hosts a youth camp located at Camp Rotary near Monarch, Mont. for the children of Montana National Guard members. The camp serves to bring Guard youth together and provides support through deployments and the stresses that come from being a child of a service member.

The outdoor adventure, named Camp Runnamucka, attracted 76 campers this year to participate in the week-long program which is traditionally held during the last week of June.

"Camp Runnamucka is an opportunity for National Guard children and youth to spend a week of time together and have fun and just be in a supportive environment with other Guard kids," said Sara Cease, Camp Director and the Youth Program Coordinator for the Montana National Guard. While at camp, the campers take part in activities that range from hiking, geocaching and archery to arts and crafts. Special attention is given to address issues relating to the deployments their family members have participated in.

"Usually at a school there's only one of 35 or 40 that is a military child," Cease said. "So having them all here and having them all have that similar experience is good for them," she said. The camp employs a military family life consultant to assist the individual



campers with discussing their personal problems relating to deployments. Activities are also planned that allow the campers to identify the "top ten" deployment issues of the group.

"One of the challenges that we have here is the kids are coming up here and they're feeling a wide range of emotions about parents being deployed, possibly being deployed or just returning from a deployment," said Staff Sgt. Michael Touchette, a member of the 120th Fighter Wing who volunteered to help during the camp. "And so we get a lot of teenagers with these emotions that are coming out," he said.

On Thursday the approaching sound of helicopter rotor blades announced the arrival of the Adjutant General of the Montana National Guard. The campers watched in excitement as a Montana Army National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter landed in the camp clearing. Maj. Gen. Matthew Quinn led a contingent of Montana National Guard representatives and members of the local media from the helicopter to a covered pavilion to speak to the assembled children.

"This is a time where within the National Guard the meaning of family comes together," Maj. Gen. Quinn said. "And although you and I might not be related



Top: Montana Adjutant General Major General Matthew T. Quinn and his wife Jodi say farewell to the campers and staff at Camp Runnamucka following their visit June 27, 2013. Left: Montana Adjutant General Major General Matthew T. Quinn answers questions from campers during his visit to Camp Runnamucka June 27, 2013. Nation Guard photos / Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson.

within a family, we are related through the National Guard. I have deployed, my family has lived through it and my son has deployed, so I know what it's like for a family member to be gone, and we're all in this together," he said.

A wide range of talent and experience is shared with the campers by staff members who volunteer to help run the camp each year. Medical professionals, cooks, mechanics and public affairs specialists were just some of the professions represented by the staff. Many of the volunteers are members of the Montana National Guard and have had their children attend the camp.

"You know, it's all about being involved with the kids," said Lt. Col. Rodney Heaton, a 120th Fighter Wing doctor and camp volunteer. "They develop this camaraderie with each other like we do in the military when we're deployed. I love watching them group together and become close friends. It's great to be a part of that," he said.

By Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson, 120th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Goals of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program:

- Establish sexual assault training and awareness programs to educate Soldiers and Airmen
- Ensure that leaders understand their roles and responsibilities regarding the care and treatment of sexual assault victims
- Ensure that leaders understand their roles and responsibilities in thoroughly investigating and reporting allegations of sexual assault
- Create a climate that encourages victims to report incidents of sexual assault through the chain of command
- Establish systems that, should an incident of sexual assault occur, victims receive the sensitive and immediate comprehensive care and treatment they need to restore their health and well-being
- Ensure that sexual assault crimes are thoroughly investigated and that offenders are held accountable for their crimes
- Ensure that reporting mechanisms are in place to track trends in sexual assault and the effectiveness of response capabilities
- Track sexual assault training and awareness programs to ensure compliance with NGB policy



Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Training

Increased awareness key to prevention

A number of recent high-profile incidents have brought the issue of sexual assault in the military to the forefront of public attention.

Mounting concerns over sex abuse in the armed forces have led to calls for major changes in how the military handles such cases.

The 120th Fighter Wing ramped up its training program and held numerous classes during the June unit training assembly.

The National Guard Bureau is committed to eliminating incidents of sexual assault by instituting a comprehensive policy that focuses on increasing awareness through prevention and education, victim centered support, intimidation free reporting, thorough investigation, and accountability for those who commit sexual crimes.

"We are focusing on the different types of reporting, consent, being a wingman and on leadership," said Holly Wick, Sexual Assault Program and Response volunteer.

Maj. Gen. Matthew Quinn, Montana's Adjutant General, along with Command Sgt. Maj. Bill Cooper, senior enlisted member of the Montana National Guard, produced a video addressing the issue of sexual assault which was played at each of the SAPR trainings.

"Sexual assault crimes strike at the health, welfare and dignity of our Guard members and undermine the readiness of our force," said Cooper in the video.

The Department of Defense's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office has contracted the Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network to provide services through the Safe Helpline. Your information will remain confidential - your name or any other personally identifying information will not be shared with SAPRO or your chain of command.

RAINN has adapted the National Sexual Assault Online Hotline to provide specialized help via the online helpline to members of the DoD community who have been sexually assaulted. All Safe Helpline staff members have been trained to answer questions relating to military specific topics such as restricted and unrestricted reporting and how to contact relevant military resources, such as your installation or base's Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, should those services be requested.

"I do become aware of a lot of cases," said Col. J. Peter Hronek, Commander of the 120th Fighter Wing. "My plan is to make sure that they get the care that they need and the justice that they need."

A recent Pentagon report estimates 26,000 service members were sexually assaulted last year, compared with 19,000 in 2011.

Victims reported 3,374 incidents in 2012; there were convictions in 238 of those cases.

"We have zero tolerance for this - we are a professional organization - if it does happen we will take care of the perpetrator and we will care for the victim." said Hronek. "Our goal is to turn this around."

By Staff Staff Sgt. Michael Touchette, 120th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Chief Reiman Retires After 22 Years

Served in numerous deployments and positions during outstanding career

The chief of operations of the 219th RED HORSE Squadron of the Montana Air National Guard is retiring after serving in uniform 22 years for his country and state.

Chief Master Sgt. Bob Reiman will be leaving military service in August to accept a construction manager position with ADF International located north of Great Falls.

Reiman began his military career as a member of the United States Coast Guard in 1989. He served for five years as a damage controlman with four different search and rescue units before leaving to complete his college education.

He graduated from North American University in Scranton, Pa., with a bachelor's degree in wildlife forestry conservation then continued his public service working for the United States Forest Service.

He joined the 120th Fighter Wing in 1996 as a utilities craftsman in the 120th Civil Engineer Squadron and later transferred to the newly formed and first United States Air Force active duty and reserve RED HORSE associate units, the 219th and the 819th RED HORSE Squadrons located at Malmstrom Air Force Base.

During his career with the 219th RED HORSE Squadron, Reiman worked as a structural craftsman, engineering assistant, superintendent of cantonments, first sergeant, and ultimately managed multi-million dollar projects as chief of operations for the highly mobile construction unit.

His motivation to volunteer for numerous overseas deployments was driven by his love of country and the tragic events of 9/11.

"September 11, 2001 changed my life and my service commitment to my country. I took every opportunity to volunteer for any deployment overseas. I deployed with my unit twice to Kuwait, twice to Iraq, once deployed as the 120th Fighter Wing first sergeant to Iraq, and once to Afghanistan. I have had multiple deployments to Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Kyrgyzstan, Israel, Turkey, South Korea, Guatemala, Croatia and Germany," he said.

His most memorable deployment was a mission to Iraq, where he served his unit as the first sergeant and also performed duties as the Air Force liaison for the United States Army's 101st Airborne Division. He was impressed with the dedication displayed by the soldiers working in the austere environment.

"I spent two months living with the Army in field conditions alongside the Tigris River protecting a dam that provided electrical power for all of Southern Iraq. Living with and watching what the Army did showed me the sacrifices that they were making in order for us to be free. It made me proud to be an American," he said.

The 219th RED HORSE Squadron has been heavily involved in building runways, tarmacs, billeting and office space in recent years, but Reiman's favorite projects were ones that improved the lives of others in the world.



"The projects that stand out for me were not war related, but humanitarian related."

"The projects that stand out for me were not war related, but humanitarian related. I like knowing what we built was long term and would be used for generations to come. I like the fact that we were helping someone rebuild their lives and communities," he said.

He credits several of his commanders for providing the mentorship that helped him become a successful leader during his military career. Previous 219th RED HORSE Squadron commanders, Col. Gary Schick, Lt. Col. Frederyck Cayer, and current 219th RED HORSE Squadron Commander, Lt. Col. Rusty Vaira, all made a profound and positive impact on his career.

Reiman said he will miss the members of the 219th RED HORSE Squadron but will be leaving the unit in good hands as he transitions into his new civilian career.

"The most satisfying part of being a member of the military is to know that you are a part of that one percent who keep guard over our nation. No one can take that from you. It demands their respect. I am proud to be an American and that is why I served," he said.

By Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson, 120th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

MTANG FIGHTER HISTORY



F-16 Fighting Falcon

During the second quarter of 1987, it was announced that the 120th Fighter Interceptor Group's conversion to F-16A/B aircraft had been moved ahead by several months.

On November 13, 1987 the first F-16 (#562) arrived, and by the end of the year, there were five F-16's assigned to the 120th Fighter Interceptor Group.

The unit's alert duties were taken over by other units for three months, starting on April 1 as the unit transitioned into the F-16. The 120th resumed alert status at both Great Falls and Davis-Monthan on July 1, 1988.

The 120th Fighter Interceptor Group became the 120th Fighter Wing in 1995.

On January 19, 2001, after a 14 year run, the last F-16A took off from Gore Hill and was flown to it's new home in Duluth, Iowa. The aircraft was piloted by then Lieutenant Colonel J. Peter "Hoops" Hronek, the same pilot who, as a 1st Lieutenant flew the last F-106 out when the unit converted to F-16's in 1987.

The 120th Fighter Wing converted to the more advanced F-16C/D models in 2001. The F-16 was the unit's weapon's platform for the war on terror in Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

From the History files of the 120th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office.



120th Security Forces Return

Airman return home after six month deployment

A hero's welcome greeted a group of 120th Fighter Wing Airmen when they returned to Great Falls after completing a six-month deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom July 16.

Fourteen Security Forces personnel stepped off a commercial airliner shortly after midnight at the Great Falls International Airport and met a reception party made up of family, friends and 120FW leadership. Cheers erupted in the airport as the Airmen walked into view of the anxious and waiting crowd.

120th Security Forces Squadron Commander Maj. Benjamin Royer was proud of the responsibilities and wide range of work the Airmen assumed during the deployment.

"Our Defenders maintain a high state of readiness while state-side, and displayed it while in the AOR (area of responsibility). Our Defenders were recognized for their abilities and were assigned to several leadership positions," said Royer. "We had representation from our squadron in almost every facet of the Security Forces career field. I am absolutely proud of everything they did."

During the deployment Master Sgt. Mark Saali performed perimeter security and responded to alarms sounding in his sector. His assignment required him to work alongside of members of the active duty Air Force and the Air Force Reserve. This arrangement allowed him to learn new career field techniques and also share his unique Air National Guard Security Forces experiences with his counterparts.

"I've been waiting for this deployment my whole career," said Saali. "It gives me a sense of pride and I brought back a lot of things we learned from there to hopefully better our unit. There were a lot of good experiences," he said.

New technology allowed the Airmen to keep in close touch with their families while they were deployed. Master Sgt. Ed McLean is a veteran of the Persian Gulf War and is a first-hand witness to the communication advances made during the past 20 years.

"It's a big difference from the very first time I deployed where

we were still writing letters and waiting for stuff to come from home," said McLean. "Most of us had opportunities to get personal laptops or go to the MWR (morale, welfare and recreation) where we could Skype. A lot of guys had their cell phones and could make calls from their cell phones without getting charged a large amount of money. Things have just definitely come a long way since the first time," he said.

The senior, more experienced members of the group had deployed before, but this represented the first overseas deployment for the newest members of the group. Most of the Airmen agreed it was the longest trip they had spent away from family and friends.

Royer said that organizing welcome home ceremonies provides an opportunity to thank our returning veterans and reminds our fellow citizens that freedom is not free.

"Most Americans were at home asleep in their beds at the time of the team's late-night return," said Royer. "These ceremonies allow us a chance to publicly thank those who defended our freedom, recently and in bygone years, and assure those veterans that we are picking up where they left off and doing our part to carry on in the great cause of freedom," he said.

The returning troops appreciated the reception provided during their late-night arrival at the airport. Senior Airman Sean Engum's mother, father, girlfriend and several other friends showed up to welcome him home.

"That was actually very surprising," said Engum. "I was moved. I was not expecting as many people as there were," he said.

"It was awesome," said McLean. "Just getting off the plane and seeing faces you haven't seen for six months, it's pretty heartwarming," he said.

The recently returned Security Forces members are now planning to take some well-deserved time off now that they are back in the Big Sky Country of Montana.

By Senior Master Sergeant Eric Peterson, 120th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



120th Security Forces Squadron Senior Master Sgt. Kurt Trowbridge is greeted and hugged by family members at the Great Falls International Airport on July 16, 2013. He had just returned to Great Falls after completing a six-month overseas deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. National Guard photo / Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson.

MTANG Pilot First To Train

Lt. Col. Scott Smith selected to train as first C-130 pilot



Lt. Col. Scott Smith will become the first 120th Fighter Wing F-15 Eagle fighter pilot to train as a C-130 Hercules pilot later this summer. Photo by Ted Carlson.

The first pilot selected to train for the Montana Air National Guard's new aircraft mission is preparing to leave to begin his training later this summer. 120th Fighter Wing Chief of Safety Lt. Col. Scott Smith will be the first of MTANG's F-15 Eagle fighter pilots to undergo the intensive seven-month C-130 Hercules transport aircraft training provided at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.

Smith enlisted into the 120 Fighter Wing while still a senior at Cascade High School in 1990. His first job in the unit upon completing United States Air Force basic military training and technical training was serving as an F-16A Falcon fighter aircraft crew chief.

He continued his service as a traditional Guardsman participating in weekend unit training assemblies while studying for his undergraduate degree at Montana State University in Bozeman, Mont.

"I've always wanted to fly ever since I was a little kid," said Smith. "I had been around airplanes for so long and it was a goal that I wanted. I saw an opportunity to help pay for college and be around the airplanes and that was the route I took."

After graduating from MSU in 1994, Smith accepted a full-time position working as a crew chief for the 120FW detachment located at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Ariz.

His fascination with aviation led him to apply for and be accepted into fighter pilot training and become a commissioned officer in 1997.

This isn't the first aircraft conversion the MTANG veteran has experienced during his 23 years of service. Smith is qualified to fly the F-16 A/B and C/D models as well as the F-15 C/D model aircraft.

He feels fortunate to have been able to have flown fighter aircraft and now to continue his career as a C-130 transport aircraft pilot.

"My story isn't nearly as good as some of the Navy pilots who have been in our unit and flown many different aircraft," said Smith. "I feel lucky enough to have flown two of arguably the greatest fighters ever built, and now into arguably the greatest transport airplanes ever built," he said.

But there are few similarities between the fighter aircraft he's used to flying and the transport aircraft he will be training on in Arkansas. Four turbo-prop engines of a C-130 will replace the two jet engines the fighter pilots are used to operating while flying the F-15.

"The speeds we'll fly are completely different, the altitudes we fly are completely different, the missions we'll do are completely different, so it is about as opposite of what we do now as you can get," Smith said.

The aircraft conversion will include lengthy schools and time away from family. Smith had words of encouragement for unit personnel concerned about the stress involved in completing the aircraft conversion.

"You have to look past today and look at tomorrow to see how this aircraft conversion benefits our state, the Wing, and our other Airmen," Smith said. "It's very hard on the individual and their family, but the biggest thing is you've got to look at the light at the end of the tunnel. There will be some great opportunities and it will open up some incredible avenues for people that weren't there for our last mission. It's a great thing for us to be a part of," he said.

By Senior Master Sergeant Eric Peterson, 120th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



A C-130 Hercules assigned to the Kentucky Air National Guard takes off from the runway at the Great Falls International Airport on June 1, 2012. National Guard photo / Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson.

Satellite Airman Leadership School

Montana Guardsmen attend ALS in a new way

Eleven Airmen assigned to the 120th Fighter Wing and 219th RED HORSE Squadron are receiving their professional military education at home station through the use of satellite technology.

The Airmen are enrolled in the Satellite Airman Leadership School taught from a television studio located nearly 2,000 miles away at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base in Tennessee.

Ten sites nationwide are participating in the training, which uses one-way video and two-way audio to connect the students with their instructors with a near real-time capability.

Airman Leadership School is designed for Airmen to develop valuable leadership and communication skills and to prepare them for advancement in their careers.

environment and avoid having to take the difficult ALS correspondence course.

"It's a very rewarding experience. You just miss so much by the CDC (Career Development Course). The CDC is packed with a lot of information, which is good, but you don't get the social skills, the interaction with your peers, the negotiating skills. Those experiences you just can't get by CDCs," said Dadej.

This is the first time that ALS has been offered in a satellite version to members of the MTANG and students have enjoyed being able to participate in the initial program.

"I think it's cool to be one of the first ones to go through it. I guess it's a learning experience for everyone, but it's been fun so far," said Senior Airman Mike Beaver.



The first class made up of Montana Air National Guard Airmen to attend the Satellite Airman Leadership School pose for a class photo on their second day of instruction at the 120th Fighter Wing in Great Falls, Mont. on May 5, 2013. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson)

Two on-camera certified instructors lead the class through practical exercises and assign homework. The students demonstrate their new knowledge in team assignments and through class discussions. Four Montana Air National Guard non-commissioned officers have attended class at McGhee Tyson and are certified to assist with the instruction at home station.

The satellite instruction is one of three methods Airmen can use to satisfy the course required for promotion. Students can also opt to take a five week in-residence course taught at McGhee Tyson or they can take the entire course in a correspondence version.

Airmen enrolled in the satellite version will spend five weekends in a 120th Fighter Wing classroom and then attend a two-and-a-half week in-residence session taught at McGhee Tyson.

Master Sgt. Dennis Dadej is the 219th RED HORSE Squadron Unit Training Manager and serves as a local ALS facilitator. He says the satellite version provides the students with the opportunity to gain the advantages of a classroom

"I think I'll have a better understanding of the material, actually. That's one of the reasons I'm glad I did this course, aside from just doing the CDC booklets. I'll be able to understand the material a little better, that's my hope and I'll bring a lot out of it," said Senior Airman Michael Bates.

120th Fighter Wing Force Development Superintendent and local ALS facilitator, Senior Master Sgt. Tiffany Franklin, predicts that the satellite program will become a more important method of delivering education to Airmen in the future. The program is not only cost effective for the Air Force, but it is also convenient for the students to attend at their local base.

"I think it's always most important and best for the Airman to attend in-residence. And this is a great way to do it without having to be gone from your family for six weeks," Franklin said.

Students who successfully complete the entire satellite ALS course will receive in-residence credit from the United States Air Force.

By Senior Master Sergeant Eric Peterson, 120th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



Elite racer Cody Moat crosses the finish line, a wall of fire, during the 2013 Spartan Sprint with a time of 50:26. National Guard photo / Tech. Sgt. Brett McCloney.

MTANG Guardsmen participate in world's leading obstacle race.

National Guard participated in the 2013 Montana Spartan Sprint held near Big Fork, Mont. May 11. The Guardsmen formed teams that included representatives from the 120th Fighter Wing and the 219th RED HORSE Squadron.

The Spartan Race website bills the event as the world's leading obstacle race series. The participants must prepare for the unknown as course maps are not published and the racers do not get advanced information on the types or locations of obstacles.

Race organizers selected the race site based on the difficult terrain that it offered. The Spartan Sprint featured over four miles of formidable obstacles which demanded that athletes climb ropes, crawl through sections of mud and under barbed wire, jump through flames, scale seven-foot walls and carry 60 lb. bags of sand up hillsides.

The Air National Guard has been the event's main military sponsor since 2011. MTANG recruiters were on hand during the event to provide encouragement to the participants and offer recruiting information to the interested racers.

"I think it's important that the Air National Guard participates and supports these types of events for multiple reasons. This is a great way to tell the Air National Guard story to the public



Race participants carry 60 pound bags of sand up and down a hillside during the 2013 Spartan Sprint held near Bigfork, Mont. on May 11, 2013. National Guard photo / Tech. Sgt. Brett McCloney.

and show that we support the community and state," said MTANG Production Recruiter Tech. Sgt. Jason White.

Senior Airman Jason Spring first found out about the Spartan Sprint when he read an event flyer that was posted in the base gym. He researched additional race materials on the internet and thought it would be a fun event to enter.

"I think it's more of a mind thing than anything. For me, you can run around a track and you know where your ending is at, so when you start getting close to the end you can actually push it a little bit harder. It seemed that every time I would think I was getting close to the ending and I'd push myself a little bit more and it just seemed like it kept going and going," he said.

Spring has begun to prepare for next year's Spartan Sprint also to be held near Bigfork. He encourages other unit members to take part in the mentally and physically challenging event.

By Senior Master Sergeant Eric Peterson
120th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



Master Sgt. Jon Gunter and local competitor, Klotz Klan, pose with their medals at the finish of the 2013 Spartan Sprint held near Bigfork, Mont. on May 11. National Guard photo / Tech. Sgt. Brett McCloney.

HISTORY *Of* THE MTANG

Great Falls welcomes JFK in 1963

The city of Great Falls was treated to a presidential visit in 1963. On Sept. 26 President John F. Kennedy stepped off Air Force One at Great Falls International Airport and was greeted by local civic leaders and military officials. Thousands of citizens lined the motorcade route as the president and his entourage drove to the childhood home of Montana Senator Mike Mansfield, who was then serving as the Senate Majority Leader. The motorcade then proceeded to Great Falls High School where he gave a speech to the citizens gathered in Memorial Stadium.

From the 120th Fighter Wing History Archives

1963



The News You Can Use

DoD Safe Helpline

Department of Defense Safe Helpline is a groundbreaking crisis support service for members of the DoD community affected by sexual assault. Safe Helpline provides live, one-on-one advice, support, and information to the worldwide DoD community. The service is anonymous, secure, and available 24/7 — providing victims with the help they need, anytime, anywhere.

Specially-trained Safe Helpline staff provide help three ways:

Online:

The Online Helpline provides live, confidential help through a secure instant-messaging format at SafeHelpline.org. The website also provides vital information about recovering from and reporting sexual assault.

Telephone:

Victims who prefer to get help by phone can call 877-995-5247 to speak with Safe Helpline staff for personalized advice and support.

Safe Helpline staff can also transfer callers to installation or base Sexual Assault Response Coordinators, civilian rape crisis centers, the Suicide Prevention Lifeline or Military One Source.

SMS/Text Message:

Just text your zip code or installation or base name to 55-247 (inside the U.S.) or 202-470-5546 (outside the U.S.) and they'll text back contact information for the SARC on your installation or base.



JOB FAIR IN HELENA AUGUST 16

Lewis and Clark County Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall, 98 West Custer Avenue in Helena, Montana.

The event brings together employers and educators from the area and surrounding states that are actively hiring or seeking students.

This job fair is one in a series being held across by Montana Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve to help our Montana Guard and Reserve members with employment.

Contact: Parker Sullivan Montana Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, 406-791-0895.



You are highly encouraged to go the Hero2Hired website at: H2H.jobs and register on this Department of Defense generated website. It claims to have everything you need to find a job.

We know that searching for a new job is a big undertaking. That's why Hero2Hired was created; to make it easy for Reserve Component service members to connect to and find jobs with military-friendly companies.

The website also offers career exploration tools, military-to-civilian skills translations, education and training resources, as well as a mobile app. Support for Hero2Hired is provided through the Department of Defense's Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program.

Need help writing a resume?

Contact Employment Transition Coordinator Joe Fletcher. He is here to help you write up a dynamic resume, learn job interview skills, and connect with employers. Take advantage of this free service for you and contact him at 406-788-3151.

Want to be in the Big Sky Flyer?

If you enjoyed this month's Big Sky Flyer center photo layout and would like to feature your shop or section in a future display, please contact Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson at 791-0226.

We're always looking for opportunities to photograph our personnel in their work environment doing interesting and visual activities. This is a good opportunity for you to recognize your employees or co-workers for all of their hard work.

Public Affairs
120th FW/MTANG
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Great Falls, MT 59404-5570

Faces of the Guard

Chief Master Sgt. Timothy L. Zumbrun named Montana Command Chief



(National Guard photo / Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson)

Montana National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Matthew Quinn selected Chief Master Sgt. Timothy L. Zumbrun to serve as the State Command Chief Master Sergeant of the Montana Air National Guard May 7, 2013.

As the senior enlisted advisor for the Montana Air National Guard he will advise and assist the commander in matters concerning enlisted members.

Zumbrun entered the United States Air Force in December 1987 and served nearly four years of active duty as a security specialist. He joined the Montana Air National Guard in 1991 where he cross-trained as a structural specialist with the 120th Civil Engineering Squadron. He was later assigned to the 219th RED HORSE Squadron in 1997.

