

BIG SKY FLYER



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Commander's comments

Col. Lee Smith
120th Airlift Wing Commander

Vigilantes, during the February regularly scheduled drill we will be recognizing the wing's 2015 Outstanding Airmen of the Year, as well as the wing's Annual and Quarterly Award winners. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate not just the winners, but all of the nominees. Your contributions to the wing and your communities were truly remarkable and it was not easy to pick winners amongst you; that is a good thing. [CLICK FOR STORY](#)

Civil Support Team exercises airlift capability

By Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson
14 members of the 83rd Civil Support Team spent three days in January at the 120th Airlift Wing preparing, weighing and loading equipment and vehicles into 120th Airlift Wing C-130 Hercules Transport [CLICK FOR STORY](#)

2015 Montana Air National Guard Outstanding Airmen of the Year



By Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson

The Command Chief of the Montana Air National Guard announced the names of individuals selected to serve as the 2015 MTANG Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

Chief Master Sgt. Timothy Zumbun released the information in an email sent to all personnel on behalf of the Commander of the MTANG, Brig. Gen. Bryan Fox, January 8.

The Airmen selected serve as members of the 120th Airlift Wing based at the Great Falls International [CLICK FOR STORY](#)



120th Airlift Wing Operations Support Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Larry Gardner poses with the 120th Airlift Wing's Aircrew Flight Equipment shop. The AFE shop won AFE Shop of the Year for 2015, beating out 84 other units. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Lindsey Soulsby)

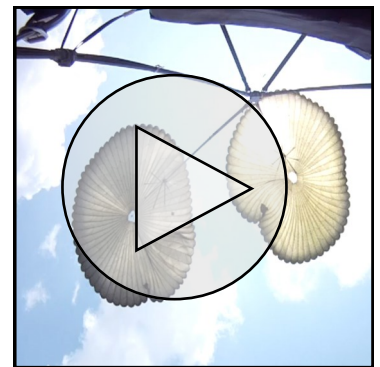
The best beat a bad situation

By Staff Sgt. Lindsey Soulsby

The 120th Aircrew Flight equipment shop was not the same shop in 2015. They used resiliency to overcome challenges that lead them to be the Aircrew Flight Equipment Shop of the Year for 2015. Passion for the job, hard work and knowing each other aided the AFE shop to beat out 84 other units for the award.

Undermanned, relocated due to a renovation, throw in a couple inspections during a conversion [CLICK FOR STORY](#)

Featured video: cargo view of a C-130 Hercules air drop



Airmen benefit from new food labeling program

By Tech. Sgt. Michael Touchette

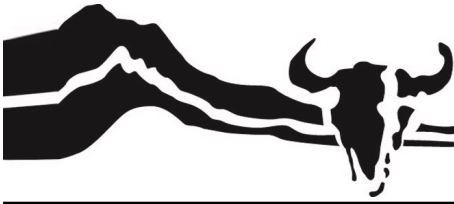


A dining facility worker hands a plate of "green" foods to an Airman during the 120th Airlift Wing's regularly scheduled drill Nov. 8, 2015. Small labels stating the "color" for each food item are displayed on the serving line making it easy for Airmen to choose healthier meals. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael Touchette)

The 120th Airlift Wing's dining facility has adopted a labeling system that will make eating right easier for Airmen.

Go for Green is a labeling system providing Airmen with a quick assessment of menu offerings using stop light style labels.

"It's a DoD program designed to enhance the well-being of [CLICK FOR STORY](#)



**Faces of the Guard—
Master Sgt. Robert Martin**

By Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson



Chief Master Sgt. Dale Gunter congratulates Master Sgt. Robert Martin during his retirement ceremony held in the 120th Security Forces classroom. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson)

120th Security Forces Squadron member Master Sgt. Robert Martin completes 27 years of service with the Montana Air National Guard March 1.

His leadership, coworkers and family gathered together in the SFS classroom to celebrate his illustrious career during a retirement ceremony held during the January regularly scheduled drill.

Martin has since taken terminal retirement leave from his job as an Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) employee with the 120th Airlift Wing.

During the ceremony, Martin was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal.

His presentations included a Presidential Certificate of Appreciation and a shadow box containing his stripes, badges, service ribbons and a flag flown in his honor on the flagpole of the 120th AW headquarters.

**Maintainers go above
when temps fall below**

By Staff Sgt. Lindsey Soulsby



Winter in Montana can be brutal, with temperatures below zero, snow, ice and a wind chill that would make anyone want to stay warm inside.

The C-130 Hercules brings maintainers of the 120th Airlift Maintenance Squadron outside to work regularly.

[CLICK FOR STORY](#)

**Family Programs honor
two volunteers**

By Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson

The Montana Air National Guard Airman and Family Readiness Program Manager has announced the names of two volunteer award winners for 2015.

Paige Held said that the 120th Logistics Readiness Squadron Volunteer Point of Contact Keri Leggett has been named the Region 8 Volunteer of the Year for 2015.

According to Held, Leggett has been an active VPOC for her squadron for four years. She maintains the squadron and Family Programs Facebook pages and works with the

[CLICK FOR STORY](#)

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**History of the Montana Air National Guard
(Scanned negative from the photograph archives)**



A Montana Air National Guard F-89 J Scorpion fighter aircraft prepares to fly in an exercise held at Cold Lake, Canada June 14, 1966.

The F-89 was unique from previous fighters the unit flew as it required a pilot and a radar observer.

The MTANG flew several models of F-89 aircraft from 1955 to 1966. The last F-89 J model left Great Falls Nov. 4, 1966 to be placed in storage at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona.

GO FOR GREEN®
Eating well to perform



**February UTA
Dining Facility menu**

Saturday-Lasagna, Chicken Alfredo, Alfredo Noodles, Steamed Rice, Broccoli, Succotash, Bread Sticks

Soup-Tortellini

Desserts-Cherry Crisp, Angel Food Cake, Parfaits, Jello, Soft Serve Ice Cream Bar

Sunday-Jerk Chicken, Stuffed Pork Chop, Southwestern Rice, Baked Sweet Potato, Corn on the Cob, Brussel Sprouts