



Vol. XXXVIII No. 5
May 1, 2016

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Commander's Comments

Col. Lee Smith
120th Airlift Wing Commander

Last month 33 Vigilantes earned their CCAF degrees in the largest graduating class the MTANG has ever had. My hat's off to all the graduates for their hard work and dedication in achieving this important accomplishment. Well done!

Education is something the AF values very much. And you should too. Education, to include training, is one of the main methods by which we learn in life. The other is experience. While experience is great, you usually don't get it until after the moment you need it and the lesson sometimes hurts. Education and training, on the other hand, accelerate the gaining of experience, and without the sometimes painful lesson.

Developmental education in [CLICK FOR COMPLETE STORY](#)



Brig. Gen. Hronek receives his silver stars during Fort Harrison promotion ceremony

By Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson

Family members of newly promoted Brig. Gen. J. Peter Hronek pinned silver stars to his United States Air Force uniform in a ceremony held in the Helena Armed Forces Reserve Center at Fort Harrison, Mont. April 2, 2016.

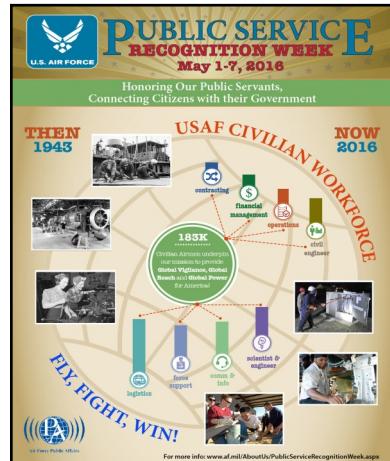
His friends and many past and present members of the Montana National Guard joined with his family to witness the prestigious event in the filled auditorium.

According to the promotion ceremony program, General Hronek has served over 30 years as a member of the Montana Air National Guard. As a member of the MTANG he has served in positions of intelligence officer, operations officer, chief of safety, and served as group commander of

both the 120th Maintenance and Operations Groups.

A command pilot, General Hronek has flown over 4100 hours flight time in military aircraft that include the F-106 Delta Dart, F-16 Falcon, F-15 Eagle fighter aircraft and the C-130 Hercules transport aircraft. As wing commander he led the organization during two major aircraft conversions: from the F-16 Falcon to the F-15 Eagle fighter aircraft and most recently from the Eagles to the C-130 Hercules transport aircraft.

General Hronek now serves as the chief of staff for the MTANG and will provide advice to the Montana National Guard leadership on issues affecting the MTANG.



Upcoming events

May 1—Chaplain services: 6:30 a.m. Protestant Service at 219th RED HORSE Squadron; 7:30 a.m. Catholic Mass at EOD; 7:30 a.m. Protestant Service at Civil Engineer classroom.

May 2—Lunch and Learn in the Dining Facility at noon. POC Maj. Maureen Maphies.

May 20-22—Strong Bonds “Prep” marriage retreat in Missoula. POC: Paige Held.

June 4-5—Boss Lift, Family Day CBRNE/SABC Rodeo, NCO/SNCO Induction Ceremonies, Wing photograph.

June 27-July 2—Camp Runamucka

July 23-25—Yellow Ribbon Event in Billings. POC: April Ruckdaschel.



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Education and awards covered during lunch and learn

By Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson

120th Airlift Wing Commander Col. Lee Smith conducted the second in a series of brown bag lunch seminars at the 120th AW dining facility April 11.

The lunch and learn topics covered during the event includ-

ed a discussion of awards and decorations and continuing education.

Col. Smith provided his personal philosophy on how to improve the awards and decorations program at the 120th AW.

He said when someone considers nominating an individual for one of the three commonly awarded medals the appropriateness of their rank should be taken into consideration.

Senior airmen and lower ranked individuals may be nominated for the Air Force Achievement Medal; company grade officers and non-commissioned officers may be nominated for the Air Force Commendation Medal; and the Meritorious Service Medal is appropriate when nominating senior noncommissioned officers and field grade officers for an award.

"At the three to five year point is a perfect time to start

looking at someone to see whether or not they merit a citation," Col. Smith said.

"Ideally, the person has no negative information during the award period. The fundamental requirement for an award is that their performance is truly exceptional and above and beyond what their peers are," Col. Smith said.

Col. Smith said he looks for three criteria for justifying an Airman for an above the zone nomination for award: the scope of responsibility, duration and the impact of the Airman's actions. He said the scope of responsibility and the impact of the action must be above the rank class of the

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History of the Montana Air National Guard (From the May 1966 Scorpion newsletter)



Army and Air National Guard officers from all over the state of Montana converged on Lewistown, Mont., April 30, 1966 for their Ninth General Conference.

The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Richard Kendall, addressed the assembled officers on Department of Defense and National Guard Bureau plans and programs for the National Guard and civil defense organization and planning. Reports to the membership on operations and training of the units were given by Brig. Gen. M. Y. Foster, the assistant adjutant general, and Col. Rodger D. Young, chief of staff for air.

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May Dining Facility menu

Saturday-Chicken Enchilada, Taco Salad, Spanish Rice, Refried Beans, Corn Lima Beans

Sunday-Lemon Herb Chicken, Braised Beef with Noodles, Scalloped Potatoes, Chicken Gravy, Seasoned Carrots, California Blend Vegetables

Monday-Country Fried Steak, Baked Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Steamed Rice, Broccoli, Peas with Onions, Country Gravy

Soup-Chicken Tortilla

Desserts-Cake with Chocolate Frosting, Apple Pie, Parfaits, Jello, Soft Serve Ice Cream Bar