

# BIG SKY FLYER



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Useful links: [120th AW Website](#) [Facebook](#) [Airmen Resources](#) [Family Programs](#) [AMC Website](#) [ESGR](#)



## Command Information

Col. Patrick Hover  
120th Operations Group Commander

“Tweet!” (sound of a whistle blowing). Whew, what a year.

It is truly amazing what you all have accomplished during the last year of “conversion”.

It is natural to get so busy in the day-to-day processes, prepping for the next tasking, the next drill, the next deployment, or the next move that we tend to focus on the rocks in the trail and miss the overall view. It’s easy to lose sight of all that we have accomplished and take for granted all we have been blessed with. So let’s take a moment to reflect on what’s happened in the last year and think about our future.

Operations flew 24 joint airborne/air transportability training mission, five major [CLICK FOR COMPLETE STORY](#)



Senior Airman Brenden O’Neil maintains second place carrying 65 pounds of gear in his rucksack during a 12-mile ruck march at Fort Harrison, Montana Sept. 10, 2016. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Lindsey Soulsby)

## Airmen score high in Army Guard competition

By Staff Sgt. Lindsey Soulsby

Two Airmen from the Montana Air National Guard secured second and third place Sept. 8-11 during the Montana National Guard “Best Warrior” competition at Fort Harrison, Mont.

Senior Airman Brendan O’Neill earned second place in the BWC in the enlisted category. He is assigned to the 120th Civil Engineer Squadron.

Staff Sgt. Jason Spring placed third among the NCO’s. He is assigned to the 120th Security Forces Squadron.

Spring crossed the finish line of the final 12-mile ruck first and O’Neill followed close behind.

“I can confidently state that our Airmen excelled in the obstacle course, physical stamina event and ruck,” said Command Chief Master Sergeant Tim L. Zumbrun, state command chief.

“Additionally, both individuals also did very well in the stress

shoot, which primarily focused on firearms proficiency utilizing the M4 rifle and M9 pistol.”

Ten Soldiers and two Airmen participated in the three-day competition.

The challenge included a formal board, written test, essay, service dress inspection, water events and the ruck that spanned two days, O’Neill called it nerve-wracking.

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Staff Sgt. Jason Spring drinks from his canteen after crossing the finish line in first place during a 12-mile ruck march at Fort Harrison, Montana Sept. 10, 2016. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Lindsey Soulsby)



## Video—Introduction to the Diversity Council

By Staff Sgt. Nikolas Asmussen



## Building the crew—the navigators

By Tech. Sgt. Michael Touchette  
(The third in a five-part series)

Most modern vehicles come with an option for an electronic vehicle navigation system that allows a driver to plot a route to their destination to avoid traffic congestion and show way points such as gas stations or rest areas and determine the driver’s time of arrival.

Even with all of the technology available to drivers, it pales in comparison with the skills of a United States Air Force navigator.

Navigators not only plot flight routes, but assess threats along the route, identify available [CLICK FOR COMPLETE STORY](#)



## Personnel office customer service updates

By Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson



The military personnel section superintendent of the 120th Force Support Squadron would like 120th Airlift Wing members to know that improved services are now available from her office thanks to the recent addition of personnel and updated processes.

Master Sgt. Denise Ross said individuals seeking assistance during drill periods should receive faster responses to their requests for services now that her office is fully staffed.

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## Firefighters hone their lifesaving skills

By Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Bailey  
MTANG Fire and Emergency Services

Firefighters from the 120th Fire and Emergency Services Flight took part in two weeks of comprehensive hands-on training at the city of Great

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## CFC kickoff at 120th AW

By Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson



The Combined Federal Campaign held its first organizational meeting at Malmstrom Air Force Base September 28.

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## Academy grads share MTANG connections

By Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson



The United States Air Force Academy class of 2016 had its share of Montana Air National Guard family connections during the June 2 graduation ceremony.

MTANG Commander Brig. Gen. Bryan Fox and retired Chief Master Sgt. Laurie Fox's son, Greg; Tech. Sgt. Brenda Lorraine's daughter and Senior Master Sgt. Gary Lorraine's stepdaughter, Charlene; and Chief Master Sgt. Teresa Parker's daughter Taylor

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## Civil Air Patrol cadets fly with the 120th AW

By Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson

14 members of the Malmstrom Air Force Base Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol visited the 120th Airlift Wing of the Montana Air National Guard September 13.

During the visit CAP cadets and leaders received a tour of the base operations building, sat in the wing's aircraft training simulator and experienced an orientation flight in a C-130 Hercules transport aircraft.

The volunteer organization is the official auxiliary of the United States Air Force. Its

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## 50 years ago—the history of the MTANG (Information found in the October 1966 edition of the 120th Fighter Group Scorpion Newsletter)



About a dozen of our illustrious pilots are getting ready to check out in the F-102. All of them have been through a ground training course and have been getting simulator training with the ANG units at Boise, Idaho, and Spokane, Wash.

A TF-102 arrived on September 28 from the California ANG. The TF-102 has two seats, side by side, and is used to check out new pilots. Checkout flying is scheduled to start October 4.

Lots of luck to our pilots, we know you'll be successful. Wish we could go for a ride.

## GO FOR GREEN® Eating well to perform



### October RSD lunch menu

**Saturday**-Beef Brisket, Savory Baked Chicken, Potatoes Au Gratin, Wild Rice, Simmered Red Cabbage, Steamed Spinach, Brown Gravy

**Sunday**-Chicken A La King, Stuffed Green Peppers, Mashed Potatoes, Buttered Egg Noodles, Stewed Tomatoes, Green Bean Almandine, Chicken Gravy

**Soup**-Potato Cheddar

**Dessert**-Apple Crisp, Pineapple Upside Down Cake, Pudding Parfaits, Jello, Ice Cream Sundae Bar