

BIG SKY FLYER



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Command Information

Col. Buel Dickson
120th Maintenance Group Commander

A lot has happened since the wing received its first "Herk" two years ago. The men and women of the 120th have worked hard to get us to this place, deploying our first Airmen and C-130's to support our nation's efforts right after declaring end-of-conversion. It has been an entire wing effort and somewhat tasking for all of us, but due to your dedication, the Vigilantes are back out answering the nation's call.

Every group, shop and Airman has had an impact at getting us to this point. Although operations and maintenance are the bulk of the deployment with members from the medical group, logistics readiness squadron and communications flight also deploying, it would have [CLICK FOR COMPLETE STORY](#)



Officials from the Montana Air National Guard observe the progress of the construction being completed at the MTANG base at the Great Falls International Airport (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael Touchette)

120th Airlift Wing conversion complete

By Tech. Sgt. Michael Touchette

Col. Lee Smith, Commander of the 120th Airlift Wing, showcased recent improvements and announced the end of the unit's conversion to the C-130 airlift mission at the Montana Air National Guard base during the October drill.

"The conversion process is complete," Smith said. "Today marks our first day since the end of conversion. We sent up an official memo to the Guard Bureau yesterday that we have completed our conversion and are now a fully operational C-130 wing."

Brig. Gen. Bryan Fox, Assistant Adjutant General – Air, Montana National Guard, Brig. Gen. Pete Hronek, Vice Chief of Joint Staff for the Montana National Guard, and State Command Chief Master Sgt. Tim Zumbrun were shown the progress made on the hanger construction project and the new

unimproved landing zone.

Smith said now that the unit has completed its conversion the Airmen of the Montana Air National Guard are able to be tasked with missions, which includes deployment anywhere around the world.

"There will be some conversion projects that will continue well into the future," Smith said. "None of the work that remains impacts our ability to do our mission."

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Construction on the 120th Airlift Wing's new corrosion control hangar and the remodel of the maintenance hangar is nearing completion. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael Touchette)



Video-120AW Vigilante's deployment underway

By Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson



120th AW chiefs inducted

By Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson

Three new 120th Airlift Wing chief master sergeants were inducted to the top enlisted rank during a ceremony held at the Meadowlark Country Club September 30.

Montana Air National Guard leadership joined with the inductee's families and friends to celebrate the achievements of Chief Master Sgts. Osvaldo G. Mendez, Teresa A. Parker and John P. Weber.

The guest speaker for the evening event was the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chief of of the National Guard Bureau, Chief Master Sgt. Mitchell O. [CLICK FOR COMPLETE STORY](#)

Team Montana runs Air Force Marathon

By Staff Sgt. Lindsey Soulsby



Seventeen military members and a military spouse from Montana participated in the U. S. Air Force Marathon Sept. 17, hosted by Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

Runners from the Montana National Guard, both Army and Air, and Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana, challenged themselves with the 20th anniversary half and full marathon.

"Everyone completed (the race), that was the end goal," said Maj. Michael Loy, 120th Maintenance Group opera-

tions officer. Eight half marathoners and one marathoner completed their first race, joining more than 15,000 other participants and spectators.

"The team as a whole ran a total of 315.2 miles," Loy said.

As if the team collectively ran from Great Falls to Miles City.

The race started 30 minutes late due to weather and the humidity almost doubled that of Great Falls.

"My favorite part was going through the town. Everybody had posters and signs

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Lunch and Learn covers Strategic Plan

By Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson



120th Airlift Wing Commander Col. Lee Smith held his third in a series of "lunch and learn" events at the wing dining facility during the regularly scheduled drill October 2.

The topic of his lunchtime talk was on the recently released two-year 120AW Strategic Plan which outlines the wing's mission, vision, priorities, goals and objectives for the 120th AW.

The 18-page bound and illustrated plan addresses

three identified wing priorities: succeed in our mission; develop Airmen to their maximum potential; and improve organizational excellence.

"So those (priorities) all feed to our mission and vision," Col. Smith said. "And then around those providing the foundation for our strategic plan are the four major graded areas of the Air Force Inspection System: executing the mission; improving the units; managing resources; and leading people."

Col. Smith said that everything that is done at the wing level is interrelated and affects everything we do.

"When you see this strategic plan you'll get an idea of not only what the wing is doing and how we're doing it, but most importantly the why we are doing it," Col. Smith said.

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



The last of the F-89Js took off and were ferried to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona for storage.

Early in the morning of Friday, Nov. 4, 1966, Base Detachment Commander Col. R.D. Young and Group Commander Lt. Col. E. J. Whalen were out together to watch the departure and shed a few tears of sentiment as they observed the "Scorpion" fade into the past.

The F-89s raised and seasoned many a pilot and radar intercept officers in its 10 years and 50,000 hours of flying at this base. With this record it deserves a permanent place in our memories. We intend to establish one by retaining and memorializing one F-89 on the base.

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November RSD lunch menu

Saturday Holiday Meal-Roast

Rib of Beef, Roast Turkey, Baked Ham, Rice Pilaf, Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing, Glazed Carrots, Steamed Corn, Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans with Mushrooms, Shrimp Cocktail, Beef Gravy, Turkey Gravy, Cranberry Sauce

Sunday-Turkey and Noodles, Szechwan Beef, Steamed Rice, Peas and Carrots, Mixed Vegetables, Brown Gravy

Soup-Lumberjack

Dessert-Pumpkin Pie, Pecan Pie, Blueberry Cheesecake