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BIG SKY
FLYER

Vol. XXXV, No. 5 - May 2013

NORTH
TO
ALASKA

NEW
ANG
DIRECTOR

PAYTON
PHOTO
PORTFOLIO



By Col. Pete Hronek
120th Fighter Wing Commander

Change in Weather, Change in Mission

Planning continues, moving toward our Wing's new mission.

Vigilantes,

Welcome to spring, well kind of...Such as the weather in Montana, but as we know with the change in weather, we are getting closer to a change in our mission that is coming about with the dynamics of the budgets and the politics that accompany it. I have briefed over the past few years events that must happen to implement the mission change. With the events that have recently happened, the C-130 mission change is closer to reality.

Our Senior Leadership Team again returned from DC, as we continued to work on the conversion and prepping for the upcoming SATAF in June. I gave an update of the visit to the Commanders/ Supervisors at the May UTA, Friday stand-up, and then an update to all Airmen in a CCTV presentation. These briefings are recorded and you can watch them on CCTV or ask Public Affairs to show it when you'd like.

During the May UTA, Master Sgt. JP Gunter organized a job fair for the weekend as we hosted the 182nd AW, an ANG C-130 unit from Peoria, Illinois. They brought Airmen here that are in the new career fields of our new mission. It was a great event for the Airmen to look at new careers in the C-130 mission and also a time to look at other opportunities in the Wing.

With all the upcoming changes in the new mission, I do realize that there is a lot of stress with our Airmen, especially with our younger full-time technicians as we start the Reduction in Force (RIF) process. Please trust me; I do hope this process will be a Reorganization of Force, rather than a reduction in force. The full time numbers we are working on with NGB is making that much more of a reality.

I also realize the media has been showing specifics about the conversion and not much from the Wing in their articles. Please realize that the details still have not been approved by the Governor and Senior Leadership. We are still negotiating the details, which are continually improving! That is why the specifics are not coming from us yet. When all parties are satisfied, we will have an official announcement. Please trust me in what I am briefing you, not the media. I will always give you the most current information as possible; we just need to keep it in house for now.

We have come off a tremendous first half of the year with all of our major inspections and a rapid deployment to Alaska. What outstanding achievements by all of you; I couldn't be prouder! I know for myself and many of you that this difficult change is coming when we are at the top of our game in the F-15. It is hard to understand, especially in these budget times, and still having to respond to a tasking call by our nation in the Air Dominance Mission. But in the end, we will salute smartly to the laws that govern us and we will make the most of our future to serve our nation and state.

Vigilantes, you are the most professional and resilient Airmen I have ever seen. Please stay focused on your job today, know your leadership is hard at bat for you, and the Wing's long term future!

“Please trust me; I do hope this process will be a Reorganization of Force, rather than a reduction in force. The full time numbers we are working with NGB is making that much more of a reality.”



The city of Anchorage, Alaska and the surrounding vistas were one of many subject matters for Staff Sgt. Mark Payton while deployed to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. Photo by Staff. Sgt. Mark Payton

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pg. 3 Col. Hronek swears daughter into MANG

Col Hronek swears in his daughter, Jordan, as the newest member of the 120th Fighter Wing.

Preventing FOD pg. 4

Foreign object damage, commonly called FOD, is one of the largest preventable costs to the United States Air Force. When a jet engine ingests a small rock or bolt lying on the tarmac, there is potential for tremendous damage to the engine.

pg. 5 North to Alaska

Montana Airmen travel to the "Land of the Midnight Sun" to stand alert while taking on the challenges of constant snow removal, ice and slick ramps.

pg. 7 Payton's Portfolio

Staff Sgt. Mark A. Payton combined his love of photography and the outdoors while deployed to showcase the beauty of Alaska.

FRONT COVER: A Montana Air National Guard F-15 Eagle flies over the alert facility at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska during the 120th Fighter Wing's recent deployment. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Jason Johnson.

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All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated. The deadline for unsolicited submissions is Saturday of the UTA. Change of address: for military change of address, visit the MPF in headquarters. For non-military or retiree changes of address contact: Master Sgt. Kim Gunter, (406) 791-0285, kim.gunter@ang.af.mil or Maj. Cody Smith, 791-0159, cody.smith@ang.af.mil. Military retirees must also contact: Under age 60 - Air Reserve Personnel Center 1-800-525-0102, over age 60 - DFAS Cleveland 1-800-321-1080.

pg. 9 Fighter History: F-106 Delta Dagger

In 1972 the F-102A Delta Dagger was replaced by the F-106 Delta Dart. Early preparation made the transition happen in record time.

pg. 11 Lt. Gen. Clarke new ANG Director

Lt. Gen. Stanley Clarke III formally became Air National Guard director during a ceremony at Joint Base Andrews, Md. March 22, 2013.

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Air National Guard Director Lt. Gen. Stanley Clarke III penned this letter to his Guard Airmen.

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FOD WALK

Foreign Object Damage Prevention High Priority

The winds of North Central Montana blow hard on the flight line at the Great Falls International Airport. Those winds can carry the potential for millions of dollars of damage. An object as small as a dime could severely damage a sensitive jet engine.

Foreign object damage, commonly called FOD, is one of the largest preventable costs to the United States Air Force. When a jet engine ingests a small rock or bolt lying on the tarmac, there is potential for tremendous damage to the engine.

"FOD is anything that is external to the engine and can cause damage to the blades. Debris on the airfield includes rocks and FOD can actually be birds, nuts and bolts, or anything that's left around out there has the potential to be FOD," says Tech Sgt. Jason Chamberlain, a jet engine mechanic for the 120th Fighter Wing.

Jet engines on fighter aircraft, such as the 120th Fighter Wing's F-15 Eagles, are very low to the ground. As the jet taxis, the powerful engines can pick up small piece of debris. The foreign object then hits the fan blades bending and chipping them. The harder the object is sucked in, the farther back it can travel and the more extensive the damage.

"If you throw a bolt down this thing, it's going to damage pretty much all the way back to the 13th stage of the engine," said Chamberlain.

Minor damage to the fans at the front of the engine is repaired locally by 120th Maintenance Group personnel. More serious damage from large, or very hard objects requires specialized service off site. This can be expensive and time consuming.

Like the rest of the Air Force, the 120th Fighter Wing has an aggressive FOD prevention program. Airmen walk along the flight line on a regular basis picking up small debris. Maintenance personnel also drag a "FOD Boss" across the runway on a regular basis. This device looks like several thick blankets. The "FOD Boss" captures small items and keeps them from damaging aircraft.

Stopping FOD damage is a team effort. All Airmen must be on the lookout for potential FOD items. Car tires and boot treads must be checked for loose rocks when going near the flight line. Participating in weekly FOD walks makes this task quick and easy. With constant vigilance, FOD can be prevented.

Airman 1st Class Nikolas Asmussen
120th FW Public Affairs



Above: Master Sgts. Michael Haman and Evan Jones deposit potential FOD discovered and removed during a FOD walk at the Great Falls IAP April 6, 2013.

Below: A line of Airmen walk shoulder to shoulder along the flight operations surfaces, searching for and removing any foreign objects during a FOD walk at the Great Falls IAP April 6, 2013. National Guard photos by Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson.



120th Fighter Wing Commander Col. J. Peter Hronek, his wife Tracy, and members of the 120th Fighter Wing's Medical Group welcome Jordan Hronek into the Montana Air National Guard March 22, 2013. National Guard photo by SSgt Michael Touchette.

A GUARD FAMILY

Jordan Hronek sworn in by her father.

For the second time this year, Col. J. Peter Hronek has administered the oath of enlistment to one of his children, welcoming them into the Air National Guard family.



120th Fighter Wing Commander J. Peter Hronek administers the oath of enlistment to his daughter, Jordan, March 22, 2013. National Guard photo by SSgt. Michael Touchette

On March 22, 2013 Jordan E. Hronek raised her hand and repeated the oath as her father read it.

"I am so proud of her for choosing to serve her country in the Guard," said Tracy Hronek, Jordan's mother.

Hronek joins the 120th Fighter Wing as a Medical Service Technician Apprentice with the Medical Group and currently attends the University of Montana, working on her undergraduate degree. Her long-term goal is to become a physician's assistant.

"The experience I get from the Guard and working in the Medical Group will really help me with my career goals," said Hronek.

Hronek is scheduled to depart for Air Force Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas in August. She will then attend the Basic Medical Service Course at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas where she will specialize in either allergy/immunology or neurology.

Col. Hronek is understandably proud to see his daughter enlist into the unit he commands.

Hronek swore in his youngest son, Matthew, in January at the Montana Air National Guard's new recruiting storefront located in the Gallatin Valley Mall in Bozeman, Mont.

"I wanted to enlist before him, but it didn't work out that way," Hronek said.

Jordan and Matthew's brother, Luke, is serving in the Montana Army National Guard.

Staff Sgt. Michael Touchette
120th FW Public Affairs



North to Alaska



A Montana Air National Guard F-15 Eagle taxis out of the alert facility at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska on March 26, 2013. National Guard photos by Master Sgt. Jason Johnson

Air Sovereignty mission reemployed from Hawaii to Alaska.

Approximately 50 volunteer Airmen are taking part in a dual role mission while deployed to the Alaska North American Aerospace Defense Command Region. The Montana Guardsmen provide for the air sovereignty alert mission as part of homeland security and are responsible for securing and potentially intercepting any foreign aircraft that violate sovereign American airspace.

The 120th was in a perfect position to fill the AEF mission slot, after recently ending a similar role while deployed to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. The timing worked out perfectly for the redeployment, according to Lt. Col. Buel Dickson, the Expeditionary Fighter Squadron Commander.

"PACAF needed someone to fill in for the F-22s while they are undergoing modifications. After finishing up in Hawaii, it fell right in place," Dickson said.

Even with the experiences learned from the past, this deployment has its own set of challenges to overcome. The winter weather, swap over of equipment and logistics of moving everyone to a new location were a few of the hurdles that were encountered.

The average amount of snowfall is nearly double that of Great Falls, Mont. That equals slick runways and ramps, as well as having to deal with constant snow removal.



These are just a few items that could affect the Alert mission, where the F-15s must be in the air within 15 minutes of notification. Training and practice have been a routine here, where everyone in the team knows their role to ensure that when the time may come for that one real-world event, the planes will launch flawlessly.

"Everyone here is working hard and are all doing a great job," said Senior Master Sgt. Gary Lorance, Maintenance NCOIC. "Practice makes perfect, that constant practice makes better proficiency."

That proficiency is showing for itself, as the teams here are having no problem launching their aircraft in roughly one-third of the target time.

"People are doing great. Planes are holding up. Maintenance is doing a great job keeping the planes up and running, and our pilots are helping out the Wing here in Alaska," said Dickson.

The mission lasted through mid-Spring and all aircraft and personnel have returned home.

"It's part of our overall mission; similar to the F-16 days, we are stepping up with the F-15. The 120th has always stepped up, and always will," Dickson said.

Master Sgt. Jason Johnson
120th FW Public Affairs

Same Mission - Different State

The jobs prove to be similar, the surrounding landscape and climate - not so much.

Three Airmen from the 120th Fighter Wing have experienced the unit's last two deployments and concur that although the difference between the mission is slight, the difference between the 49th and 50th states are quite extreme.

Chief Master Sgt. Roy Hannah, Master Sgt. Scott Benedict and Staff Sgt. Mark Payton all know first hand what life is like on and off the job serving on the air sovereignty alert mission deployments, first at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii and now at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.

With only a month between the end of the Hawaii deployment and the start of the current deployment in Alaska, the change of scenery and climate was dramatic.

Transitioning from an average of 12 hours of daylight each day and an average temperature of 75 degrees to five hours of daylight and temperatures hovering in the mid 20s required a change. Instead of lathering on the sunscreen; insulated overalls, boots, hats and gloves are the required equipment to get the job done.

"The lack of daylight and cold temperatures really didn't affect the mission. The guys do a great job at it," said Hannah, the Branch Chief for the Component Maintenance Branch while serving in Alaska.

The off-duty activities are where the real differences between the two locations become apparent; both Benedict and Payton have taken full advantage of both locations and various activities.

"In Hawaii, we'd launch airplanes, I'd go for a run, jump in the ocean, then head back to recover airplanes," said Benedict.



Above: Two Montana Air National Guard F-15 Eagles sit on the ramp at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. (National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Jason Johnson)

Below: Hawaii and Alaska both offered amazing opportunities to photograph the unique activities and environments. (Left Photo by Master Sgt. Scott Benedict. Right Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Payton.)



In Alaska, he's taking advantage of the snow by cross-country skiing and snowshoeing around base.

"There's lots of room on base, vast forest areas on base and lots of moose," Benedict said.

The "Last Frontier" of Alaska provides opportunities for outdoor recreation with numerous glaciers to explore, snowmobiling, skiing and snowshoeing and ice-fishing.

Benedict and Payton have taken some amazing photographs of the aurora borealis by watching the northern lights forecast and staying up late nights.

The Guard has given these two the opportunity to volunteer in two different deployments with on-duty challenges and opportunities to take part in off-duty activities.

Since traveling north nearly 40 degrees in latitude from Hawaii to Alaska, flip-flops have been replaced by snowshoes and surfboards by snowboards, but one thing remains the same; the Airmen of the 120th continue to accomplish the mission while taking advantage of all there is to offer during off-duty hours.

Master Sgt. Jason Johnson
120th FW Public Affairs



Master Sgt. Scott L. Benedict and Staff Sgt. Mark A. Payton stand behind a waist-high pile of snow alongside the tarmac at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska. (National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Jason Johnson)



There is no lack of winter activities in which to participate, with activities like cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and ice climbing on local glaciers and Staff Sgt. Mark Payton brings his camera on all the trips.

MTANG FIGHTER HISTORY



F-106 Delta Dart

The big news in 1972 was the change over from the F-102 Delta Dagger to the F-106 Delta Dart. The unofficial word of the conversion came at the first of the year and the group's leadership began "unofficial" preparations for the conversion. This included planning meetings, contacting Aerospace Defense Command and Guard Bureau officials for information and answers to specific questions. This pre-planning made the conversion go much more quickly and smoothly when the "official" word was received on April 1.

The unit started technical ground training and sent four pilots to F-106 instructor training in March.

In April the unit received its first F-106 and auxiliary equipment. All F-102 flying was stopped on May 1; pilot ground school was started, and the four new instructor pilots returned to the 120th.

In June, the unit flew 502 F-106 hours and the unit resumed alert status at 1200 hours on June 30, a mere 59 days from start to finish. While some experts predicted that it would take the unit up to six months to convert to the F-106, the 120th got the job done in a record 59 days. That was nothing short of amazing.

From the History files of Tech. Sgt. James Sharpe



New Director for Air National Guard

Air Force Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke III officially assumes responsibilities as Air Guard director

Air Force Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke III assumed the duties and responsibilities of director, Air National Guard in a ceremony here today at the Air National Guard Readiness Center.

Gen. Clarke took over as director from Air Force Lt. Gen. Harry "Bud" Wyatt, who retired.

A command pilot with more than 4000 hours—including more than 100 combat hours—in the A-10 Thunderbolt II and F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft, Gen. Clarke assumed his current position after serving as commander of 1st Air Force and Continental U.S. North America Aerospace Defense Command.

"The opportunity to watch (Gen. Clarke) at 1st Air Force was tremendous for me to learn his great capabilities," said Army Gen. Frank Grass, chief, National Guard Bureau, during the ceremony.

"And because of his background, Gen. Clarke was uniquely positioned and had the right skill set to take on the duties of director," said Gen. Grass.

"An Alabama Air Guardsman who served as the assistant adjutant general for air, an A-10 and F-16 pilot who commanded a squadron, wing and expeditionary wing, all of that prepared him for this job and to represent everyone in this building and all those in the Air National Guard across the map in the 54 states, territories and the District of Columbia," said Gen. Grass.

Gen. Clarke has been busy as he settles into his new role.

"There's a lot to learn," said Gen. Clarke. "But, I've hit the ground running and am drinking from the fire hose. I have already been on the hill seven times and testified twice."

However, he said his new role is a humbling one.

"This is quite an honor and I am humbled at the opportunity to serve (those in the Air Guard)," said Gen. Clarke.

As Gen. Clarke takes the reins as director, he said he sees tremendous opportunities despite recent budget cutbacks.

"I've arrived in a time of budget turmoil and uncertainty, but I view this as a time of opportunity as well," he said, adding that his focus and commitment are clear.

"My commitment to the (Airmen) and the adjutants general is clear," he said. "We will do everything within our authority to ensure our Airmen have clear policies, equipment, training and resources to accomplish assigned missions. We remain community based, team oriented and experienced."

"Gen. Clarke is ready to face those challenges," said Gen. Grass.

"(He) has stepped up to the challenge," said Gen. Grass. "And I can tell you I've already watched him as he's taken on that challenge."

Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy
National Guard Bureau



Air Force Lt. Gen. Stanley Clarke III, right, the director of the Air National Guard, receives the organizational colors of the Air National Guard from Army Gen. Frank Grass, chief, National Guard Bureau, during a ceremony at the Air National Guard Readiness Center at Joint Base Andrews, Md., where Gen. Clarke assumed the responsibilities of his current position, Friday, March 22, 2013. Gen. Clarke takes over the duties of director from Air Force Lt. Gen. Harry "Bud" Wyatt, who retired. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy)



22 March 2013

Fellow Guard Airmen

Today General Frank Grass will preside over an Assumption of Responsibility ceremony for me as I formally take the reins as the Director of the Air National Guard (ANG). This is quite an honor and I am humbled at this opportunity to serve all of you. I actually arrived in Washington two weeks ago but the responsibility found me immediately! I arrived during a period of budget turmoil and uncertainty but I view this time as a period of opportunity as well. My commitment to you and your Adjutants General is clear... my staff and I will do everything within our authority to ensure our Airmen have clear policies, equipment, training, and resources to accomplish assigned missions.

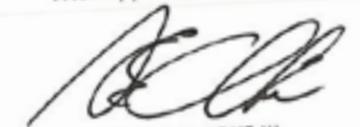
We have a great organization and culture. We remain community based, team oriented, and experienced. The National Guard is unique—we reflect the history of our nation and the constitution as well. The dual role of supporting homeland operations and defending our national interests abroad is a noble and righteous duty. I know that all of you are passionate about being in the Guard, and it shows. Your families, employers, and state leadership should be rewarded for their unwavering support as well.

We operate as a part of the Total Force. Chief of Staff of the Air Force, General Mark Welsh, always speaks in terms of the "690,000 Airmen." We are an important part of the overall team; indeed, we are inseparable. We meet the same standards, we take the same inspections, and we are on the first string when it comes to operations. With this in mind, let me ask you to do something—continue to serve with distinction.

ANG Command Chief Jim Hotaling and I have the distinct pleasure in recognizing and honoring our best. But please make our job harder by driving up the competition to be acknowledged as the best. How you present yourself as a professional Airman could not be more important at this time. Extra resources aren't required for this effort and your commitment to serve with distinction as an honorable and committed Airman will pay off in ways you can't imagine. Not just for you personally, but for your unit, your state, the ANG, and the USAF. I hope you take this challenge seriously.

The National Guard has come a long way since I joined it over 20 years ago. But we can go farther, much farther. It has been a pleasure for me to be a part of the National Guard experience and journey. I am really looking forward to serving as the 15th Director of the ANG and serving all of you with distinction.

With appreciation and admiration,


STANLEY E. CLARKE III
Lieutenant General, USAF
Director, Air National Guard

Guarding America 80 Defending Freedom

HISTORY *Of* THE MTANG

Nationally known magician Marshall Brodien paid a visit to the 120th Fighter Group on Aug. 3, 1963. Brodien was famous for creating magic instruction kits and for playing the role of "Wizzo the Wizard" on the Chicago television station WGN show "Bozo's Circus."

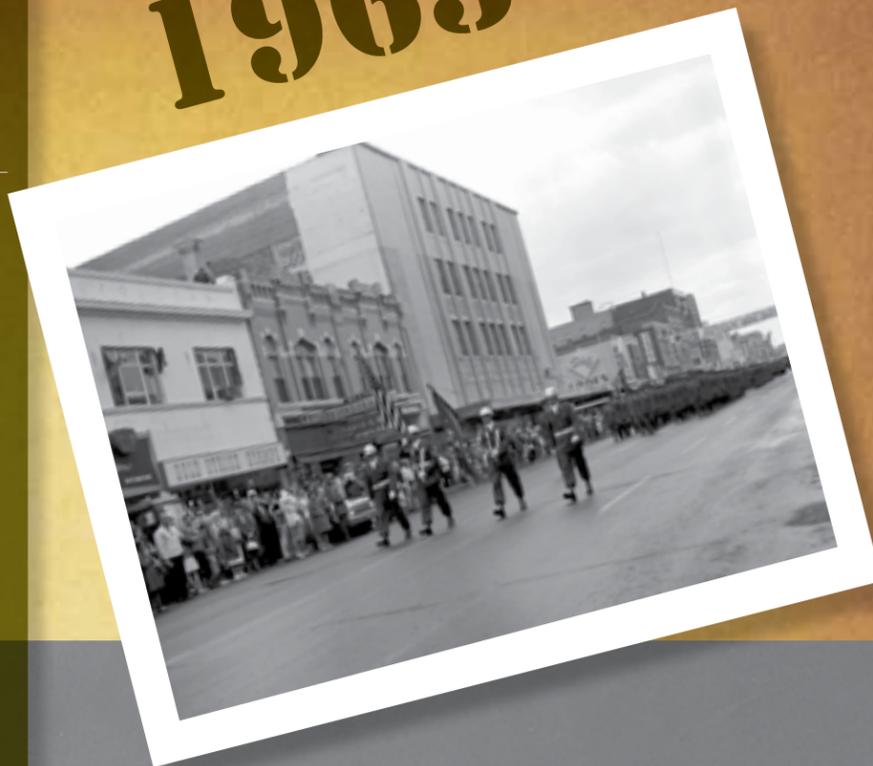
Several photographs taken by unit personnel show the famous magician appearing to levitate his assistant Judith Skarda over the wing of a Montana Air National Guard F-89 Scorpion.

His illusion act was in Great Falls for a one-week appearance at the State Fair along with other big name acts of the time including singer (and later sausage company spokesperson) Jimmy Dean and the dancing couple of Bobby and Barbara from television's "The Laurence Welk Show."

Brodien was one of many celebrities that visited the 120th Fighter Group during the 1960's. (Source: "The Magical Life of Marshall Brodien: Creator of TV Magic Cards and Wizzo the Wizard" by John A. Moehring)

From the 120th Fighter Wing History Archives

1963



The News You Can Use

Changes in AFOQT scores for pilot applicants

The Air Force Officer Qualifying Test (AFOQT) measures aptitudes used to select candidates for officer commissioning programs and specific commissioned officer training programs. The AFOQT consists of 12 subtests. Subtest scores are combined to generate composite scores used to help predict success in certain types of Air Force training programs.

Effective February 14, 2013 a new Air Battle Manager (ABM) AFOQT composite will be introduced. Additionally, the AFOQT Pilot and AFOQT Combat Systems Officer (CSO) (previously known as Navigator-Technical) composites will be modified. These changes are being made to optimize prediction of training success in each of these rated career fields, and to accurately norm scores relative to the most recent population of officer candidates.

If you took the AFOQT prior to February 14, 2013, your old scores on the Pilot and CSO composites will expire. However, most rated applicants will not be required to re-test (see below for limited exception).

If you have taken the AFOQT Form S (implemented mid-2005), your AFOQT Pilot and CSO composite scores will be re-calculated automatically based on changes in the subtests that contribute to each composite, and changes in the quality of the officer applicant pool. Additionally, your score on the new ABM composite will be calculated automatically. In contrast, if you took an older form of the AFOQT (prior to implementation of Form S), you will need to re-take the AFOQT to be considered for pilot, RPA pilot, CSO, or ABM slots in rated selection boards held after February 2013.

Official Military Personnel Records Online

Now that your personnel record is electronic, you have access to it 24/7. You can view and print forms or manage your record when it's convenient for you. Simply use the Personnel Records Display Application (PRDA) on the myPers website at mypers.af.mil. Although you may log in to myPers with a user ID and password you will need to use your CAC to access PRDA.

From your myPers homepage, go to the "I Would Like To..." section and select the "View my e-Records (PRDA)" link. After the CAC log in action, select "PRDA" from the "My Sections" area on the left. The categories of your record will display. Instructions on the page give you the options for accessing your forms. Just follow them and you're on your way.

Make myPers your first stop for personnel business. It's your total force source for Air Force personnel information and services where you can learn about personnel programs, find answers to your questions, and conduct personnel business online. If you haven't already established an account, do so and visit your personalized homepage today.

VA healthcare 5-year deadline approaching

If you deployed to Iraq and returned in the May 2008 timeframe, you are quickly approaching your 5-year time limit to enroll in the Veteran's Affairs (VA) health system.

If you wait until after the 5-year mark, your income must be reported when enrolling in the VA health system. If above a certain threshold, you could be disqualified from VA care.

If you have not already enrolled in the VA health system, please provide the following to the MT Transition Assistance Advisor, Mr. Pete Gardzina. Send a VA Form 1010EZ and a copy of your DD Form 214 from the deployment to Mr. Gardzina at peter.m.gardzina.ctr@mail.mil

Free park passes available to Military, Dependents

Free passes are again available to US military members and their dependents in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard, as well as most members of the US Reserves and National Guard.

Dependents of deployed military members with DoD Form 1173 may obtain a pass. If the military member has not been deployed, the dependent may be the second signer on their sponsor's pass.

You can receive your pass by presenting your US military ID at most Federal Lands that charge an entrance fee. Sites that issue the annual pass will generally also issue the free US military version as well.

Contact the Federal Land you will be visiting in advance to ensure that they have the pass available.

The passes are valid at more than 2,000 Federal recreation areas and cover entrance to Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service sites that charge Entrance Fees. It also covers Standard Amenity Fees at Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation sites.

The passes admit the pass owners and any accompanying passengers in a private non-commercial vehicle at per vehicle fee areas, or the pass owner and up to additional three adults at sites that charge per person.

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.

Faces of the Guard

120th Senior Airman Timothy Hardesty earns Levitow Award at active duty ALS



Senior Airman Timothy Hardesty, 120th Fighter Wing, Montana Air National Guard received the John L. Levitow award at the Airman Leadership School Class 13-E graduation banquet at the Grizzly Bend on Malmstrom Air Force Base April 30, 2013.

The award was presented to Hardesty by Col. Robert W. Stanley II, 341st Missile Wing Commander and Chief Master Sgt. Keith Collins, 741st Missile Security Forces Squadron Security Forces Manager.

The Levitow award is the highest award presented at Airman Leadership School and is considered the pinnacle of success in ALS and Enlisted PME.

The award is presented to the student who demonstrated the most outstanding leadership and scholastic qualities. Selection for the Levitow award is based on academic performance and assignment of points by peers and instructors.

