

EXCELLENCE

INTEGRITY

SERVICE

★ ★ **BIG SKY**
FLYER

Vol. XXXVI No. 6—June 2014





By Col. J. Peter Hronek
120th Airlift Wing Commander

Commander's Comments

Conversion and Change of Command

Vigilantes,

Welcome to a very historic UTA and consolidated training. We are getting into high gear with maintenance training and will start sorties for operations training in June. This is an exciting time in our conversion, but not an unfamiliar time for us. There is no Wing that knows how to do this more safely and effectively. Even though a completely different platform, the principles are the same. I have the highest confidence we will meet and exceed all our conversion goals to be battle ready and able to serve our state in any time of need.

“After 67 years in the fighter business, we will be now dedicated to the airlift world.”

One of the historic parts is the Wing will be re-designated from Fighter to Airlift. After 67 years in the fighter business, we will be now dedicated to the airlift world. As different as that is, the mission for the Air Force still remains the same; fly, fight and win! We will still remain the same as professional Airman with a warrior tactical mindset!

The second part to our historical weekend is the change of command of the Montana Air National Guard. Brig. Gen. Brad Livingston will relinquish command after 41 years of faithful service as our Senior Airman; his dedication to duty, his passion in honoring our past, the high performance expectations in the present and fighting for our future were second to none. He will be dearly missed, but never forgotten for what he did for our bright future.

Brig. Gen. Bryan Fox will not miss a beat as he assumes command and continues his passionate support for his Airman and our future in the Air Force. He truly will be a great leader for our times. I know we all will give him all the support he needs to be successful in his new command.

Finally, I just want to say as I have said many times how proud I am of all the Airman in the Wing for what you have done in such dynamic times. No Wing has endured so much and performed so well for our nation and state. I will continue to tell our story so no one ever forgets the mighty Vigilantes!



Vol. XXXVI No. 6- June 2014

Col. J. Peter Hronek,
Wing Commander
Maj. Cody Smith,
Public Affairs Officer
2nd Lt. Robin Jirovsky,
Public Affairs Officer

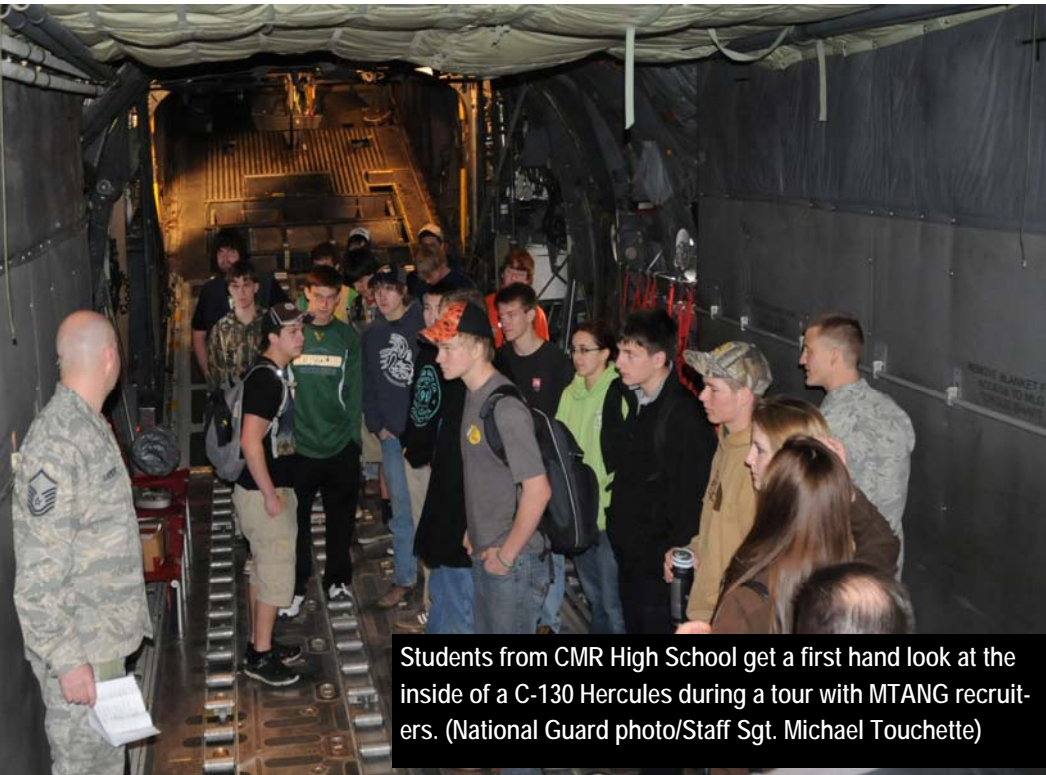
FLYER STAFF

Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson,
Photojournalist
Technical Sgt. Christy Mason,
Photojournalist
Staff Sgt. Michael Touchette,
Editor/Photojournalist
Senior Airman Nikolas Asmussen,
Photojournalist

This funded Air Force newsletter is an authorized publication for members of the US military services. Contents of the Big Sky Flyer are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the US government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force, or the Air National Guard. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of 120th Airlift Wing, Montana Air National Guard, 2800 Airport Ave. B, Great Falls, MT 59404-5570, phone (406) 791-0228 or DSN 791-0228.

Internet: www.120aw.ang.af.mil

All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated. The deadline for unsolicited submissions is Saturday of the UTA.



Students from CMR High School get a first hand look at the inside of a C-130 Hercules during a tour with MTANG recruiters. (National Guard photo/Staff Sgt. Michael Touchette)

Commander's Comments...1

Pg.3 Command Chief's Message

The importance of PME for our Airmen.

Pg.4 Chief's Induction

Montana Air National Guard welcomes the five newest Chief Master Sergeants.

Pg.5-6 Satellite ALS

Montana Airmen attend Airman Leadership via two-way video.

Pg.7-8 Conversion in Pictures

A photo essay of the 120th Airlift Wing's conversion.

Front Cover: Tech. Sgt. Jacob Jones, a 120th Airlift Wing maintainer, prepares a C-130 Hercules tail for painting. The aircraft will receive the distinctive tail flash on the Montana Air National Guard. (National Guard photo/2nd Lt. Robin Jirovsky)

Drinking Water Pg.9

MANG water found to meet the EPA standards says DEQ.

Social Media Pg.10

Do's and Don'ts for use of your social media accounts.

Mortag Awarded Pg.11

Senior Master Sgt. Ruth Mortag recognized for her work at home and abroad.

Retirements.....12

History of the MTANG...13



News You Can Use...14

Faces of the Guard...15

Command Chief's Message

The importance of Professional Military Education for our Airmen

Vigilantes,

Wow how time passes, it seems like only yesterday we were just coming back from Alaska with our F-15's and now were in the middle of our C-130 conversion. As we progress in the conversion lots of you have transitioned into new jobs and this process is still ongoing. It brings me great pride to walk around the wing and see the enthusiasm of the majority of our Airmen as they learn their new jobs and hear from their new supervisors on what a great job they are doing. This is what gives me hope for our future and a true understanding that we are handling this conversion the way we should. Words can't express how proud I am of each and every one of you on the job that you have done and continue to do each and every day.

Now I want to talk about one of my favorite subjects and that's Professional Military Education. We've been privileged enough to host two Satellite Airman Leadership School classes so far and the third is scheduled for October. Every Airman that has attended this course has had nothing but great comments to share. If I could pick one course that would be required to be in-residence, ALS would be it! It's so important that a strong foundation be set for each and every Airman as they enter the Noncommissioned Officer ranks and this course does that. I know that not all of you are able to attend in-residence courses, but if you have the opportunity to go in-residence at Malmstrom AFB or attend our Satellite class for ALS please do so. The benefits that are gained are second to none and will follow you throughout your career and assist you significantly as you become a supervisor in the future. With this being said it's not just important to attend in-residence for ALS, I highly encourage all of you to attend NCO/SNCO in-residence courses if given the opportunity to do so. I know that the Montana Air National Guard has the best Airmen in the Air Force and in-residence PME presents a great outlet to showcase that to the rest of the Air Force! My charge to all of you is to challenge yourselves to be the best and to do what is best for the Airmen.

Once again thank you for all you do. You're the best and I couldn't be more proud of all of you. I am humbled to be your Command Chief and I wouldn't trade this wing for any other and that's because of you, the greatest Airmen in the Air Force.

Chief



Chief Master Sgt. Timothy D.
Huffman
Wing Command Chief



Chief Induction Ceremony

Montana Air National Guard recognizes it's newest top enlisted

More than 165 friends and family members gathered at the Meadow Lark Country Club to celebrate and honor five newly promoted Chief Master Sergeants May 3, 2014.

Chief Master Sergeants James A. Dixon, Scott R. Fink, Brian W. Furr, Blair McAnally and Randy Remsen were honored by the Montana Air National Guard's Chief's Council as the newest members of the elite group comprising only one percent of the Guard.

Chief Master Sgt. Timothy Zumbrun, State Command Chief Master Sgt., was the master of ceremony for the evening.

A social hour preceded the induction ceremony.

The Adjutant General of Montana Major General Matthew Quinn was the guest speaker following the induction ceremony.

"I talk to anyone who will listen and tell them about the Montana Air National Guard and what you've accomplished," Quinn said.

Quinn commended the chiefs on their promotions



Chief Master Sgt. Steven Lynch presents a wooden bust of an Indian chief to a recently promoted Chief Master Sgt. Brian Furr during the chief's induction ceremony May 2, 2014 at the Meadow Lark Country Club. (National Guard photo/Staff Sgt. Michael Touchette)



Chief Master Sgt. Randy Remsen Lights the candle representing the Chief Master Sgt. Rank during the chief's induction ceremony May 2, 2014 at the Meadow Lark Country Club. (National Guard photo/Staff Sgt. Michael Touchette)

and charged them with developing their subordinates and leading the Montana Guard into the future.

Furr, one of two chiefs from the 219th RED HORSE had never been to a chief's induction prior to this one.

"It's definitely a unique experience," Furr said. "It's a special time in your career, so it's nice to see that they do something special for it."

Furr's family was in attendance, including his father, an Air Force retiree.

"My dad is retired Air Force, so it was really nice to have him come up there and see it and to have the whole family there to see it," Furr said.

"It's a great celebration to really recognize these chiefs and their accomplishments as senior leaders of the enlisted force and how they will take care of the Airmen to make sure that we succeed in our current mission and help give the right

By: Staff Sgt. Michael Touchette
120th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Satellite Airman Leadership School

Two-way video allows for instruction from 1900 miles away

Ten Senior Airmen from the 120th Airlift Wing and the 219th RED HORSE Squadron are attending the second satellite Airman Leadership School class put on by the Montana Air National Guard at the RED HORSE facility on Malmstrom Air Force Base.

The class began April 26 and is held only on weekends. It features two-way video conferencing technology to allow Montana Guardsman to interact with their instructors located at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base in Tennessee.

The entire class consists of 248 students, the largest ALS class in history, spread out across the country at 20 satellite locations.

“We are unique because we have two-way video,” said Senior Master Sgt. Tiffany Franklin, Force Development Superintendent. “That’s why we came out here this year – so they can also see us.”

In addition to the instructors in Tennessee, each location has a facilitator in the classroom interacting with the students each weekend.

The Montana Air National Guard has four qualified facilitators who take turns in the classroom; Senior

Master Sgt. Tiffany Franklin, Master Sgt. Dennis Dadej, Tech. Sgt. Tammy Wajer and Tech. Sgt. Steven Jager.

The Montana Air National Guard receives only seven seats per year at Malmstrom’s in-residence ALS course, far less than the number of Senior Airmen in the Montana Air National Guard needing the course.

“The satellite course is to supplement those in-residence seats,” Franklin said.

The course is all encompassing and counts for in-residence credit. There is no requirement to complete a Career Development Course prior to taking this course.

About half of the Airmen in attendance have taken the CDC twice, have not met the minimum standard and are frustrated, Franklin said.

“CDCs are really good if you are more of a memorization learner, but if you’re more of a visual or auditory learner this is definitely the way to go,” said Senior Airman Jennifer Cowhick, an ALS student from the 219th RED HORSE.



Airmen receive a class from onscreen instructors during the Satellite Airman Leadership School course being held at the 219th REDHORSE’s facility at Malmstrom Air Force Base May 3, 2014. Airmen receive training from the instructors, located at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tennessee via two-way electronic communication. (National Guard photo/Staff Sgt. Michael Touchette)



Instructors discuss the subject of military briefings as Senior Airman Ashlee Wajer watches, listens and takes notes. The course allows student to use various learning styles to retain the information presented. (National Guard photo/Staff Sgt. Michael Touchette)

“I tried the CDC and I think this is a lot better because I get more hands-on, more involved and you get to meet new people,” said Senior Airman Taran Dixon, a student in the class who comes from the 120 Airlift Wing’s fire department. “I’m glad I’m doing this instead of going back to the CDC.”

The class is composed of a variety of Guardsmen; four from the RED HORSE and six from the 120th Airlift Wing who get to share their different perspectives with the group.



Senior Airman Ashlynn Stacy refers to her text during a lecture at the Satellite Airman Leadership School May 3, 2014. (National Guard photo/Staff Sgt. Michael Touchette)

“We get the guys down here from the 120th and the 219th together to take the class on leadership and get to know one another,” Cowhick said. “I don’t think any of us knew each other before.”

The course is designed to develop Airmen into effective front-line supervisors and focuses on developing leadership abilities, the profession of arms, and building effective communication.

“We’ve learned a lot about the different types of learning styles; how to look at a subordinate and understand how he learns or how he perceives information and how we can adapt to get across to them,” said Senior Airman Taylor Mader.

“The instructors are really good,” said Dixon. “Master Sgt. Dadej and Senior Master Sgt. Franklin have been really helpful through the whole thing.”

A fall ALS class is being scheduled, but there is a need for facilitators. If you are interested becoming a facilitator contact Senior Master Sgt. Franklin at 791-0283.

By: Staff Sgt. Michael Touchette
120th Airlift Wing Public Affairs



Views of the





Conversion



Safe H₂O

DEQ testing shows water meets EPA safety standards

The 2013 consumer confidence report for the city of Great Falls public drinking water has been released and it's good news.

The report, prepared annually by the city of Great Falls Water utility, provides assurance to the community of the quality of the municipal drinking water.

The 120th receives all its water from the city of Great Falls, said Master Sgt. Amber Westie, 120th Medical Group bioenvironmental engineering. Montana State Department of Environmental Quality requires I send this report to all personnel.

Approximately two dozen different contaminants, most of them naturally occurring as water makes its way to the treatment plant, were found during testing of Great falls water.

Naturally occurring minerals dissolve and waste substances produced by plants, animals and humans are picked up according to the report.

Some contaminants are the result of the treatment process itself.

The primary disinfectant used in Great Falls is free chlorine. Through the addition of ammonia, monochloramine is formed just before the water exits the treatment plant. Monochloramine does not dissipate as readily as free chlorine and thus helps in maintaining disinfection at the far edges of the distribution system.

Of the contaminants found, none exceeded the standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency for safe drinking water.

According to the report, 69 regulated and 97 unregulated contaminants were tested for but not found.

"In Summary, analysis of Great Falls drinking water revealed no violations during 2013," Westie said.

"Although some constituents were detected, the EPA



An Airman fills his water bottle from a water fountain that filters drinking water. The filter is not needed to make the water safe to drink, but makes it taste better. National Guard photo/Staff Sgt. Michael Touchette

considers water to be safe at these levels."

Additionally, the Montana Air National Guard tests it's water monthly.

"Monthly we test bacteriological for the state and for ourselves," said Tech. Sgt. Scott Labonte. "It's what we call WVA sampling —water vulnerability assessment."

Samples are taken from four identified sites, additionally random samples are taken from other areas of the base, Labonte said.

"We also do lead and copper testing for our Starbase school age program twice a year," Westie said.

The Air Force requires testing of water to ensure school age children are not exposed to lead and copper in their drinking water.

If you have any questions about this report please contact Master Sgt. Amber Westie at 791-2565 or Tech. Sgt. Scott Labonte at 791-2261.

By: Staff Sgt. Michael Touchette
120th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Social Media Hazards

Stay connected with social media without sacrificing career

Engaging in social media can be a positive experience that entertains, keeps people connected and allows opinions to be expressed on a wide variety of topics.

In some cases though, social media can ruin personal reputations or careers, and create an open window for criminals to access personal information.

According to the Air Force's top social media expert, safe use of social-media outlets is simple -- use common sense.

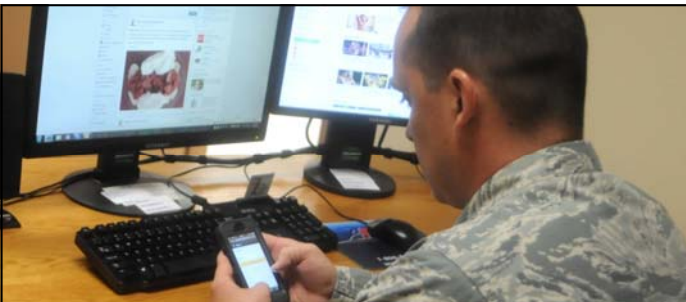
Tanya Schusler is the chief of social media for the Air Force Public Affairs Agency, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. She said in many cases, problems arise when people are "too trusting" with their personally identifiable information.

"It can be something as simple as sharing your location when visiting your favorite store or restaurant," said Schusler. "This tells your social network one critical piece of information -- you're not home."

To take full advantage of social media, and still post to Facebook and tweet to friends safely, Schusler offered the following advice:

Many Airmen cause issues by posting photographs of themselves violating appearance standards, acting inappropriately and most importantly, violating operational security protocol. If you're not within regulations, don't post it.

Airmen should not post information about deployments or photos of secure areas within their workplace. Even if the Airman takes the information down shortly after posting, someone has already seen it. The information can be printed, screen captured,



An Airman accesses Facebook, YouTube and Twitter simultaneously. National Guard Photo/Staff Sgt. Michael Touchette

copied etc. Once information is released to the internet, it's there permanently.

When posting personal opinions about Air Force topics, provide a disclaimer stating the opinion as your own, and not that of the Air Force. This can be done either as a disclaimer on a profile, or on each individual post and will alleviate any potential confusion from followers reading the post.

If an Airman posts a statement about hurting himself or others, time is of the essence. Contact 911 if you know the location of the Airman. If you do not know the person's location, contact the command post or your supervisor for assistance in locating the Airman. It is important to seek help for these individuals immediately.

Using certain security features within social media sites can help mitigate some of the risk of personal information being shared. However, privacy policies change almost daily, and Airmen may not know about the updates. Therefore, do not rely on site security measures alone. Be careful of whom you allow into your social media networks, and don't trust that the account will always remain secure. Assume personal responsibility.

Airmen's social-media pages are their personal space, and they are encouraged to tell their personal Air Force stories through social networks. They simply need to ensure the information they post is cleared for release and within regulations. Don't jeopardize the mission or put anyone's life, or lives in danger. Think before you post.

"We don't want Airmen to feel like they are stifled from sharing information," Schusler said. "We just want to emphasize the use of common sense to keep people safe."

If Airmen have questions about acceptable posting to social media a new booklet, the Air Force Social Media Guide, available for download at <http://www.af.mil> on the homepage under the social media icons. Airmen can also contact their local public affairs office with questions.

By: Airman 1st Class Zachary Vucic
Air Force News Service

Mortag Decorated

Personal awards ceremony includes family and friends

Nearly 50 Airmen from the 120th Air Wing gathered in the civil engineering classroom during an awards ceremony to recognize the accomplishments of Senior Master Sgt. Ruth E. Mortag, a Montana Guardsman recently deployed to Afghanistan.

Mortag was awarded the Air Force Commendation medal, the Senior Enlisted Central Command Joint Theater Support Contracting Award, the Non-Article 5 NATO Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal by Col. Thomas H. Mora, group commander.

Mortag deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan from May 12-December 1, 2013, where she served as the services flight chief in the Regional Contracting Center – South, Central Command Joint Theater Support Contracting Command.

Mortag developed a training program for 40 contracting professionals in support of procurement management review and C-JTSCC training directive, served in relation to the international security assistance force operations and led 11 personnel in the administration of 163 contracts exceeding \$52 million, acquiring base services impacting a combined 65,000 United States, coalition and Afghani troops across 44 forward operating bases and compact outposts.

“I learned so much from being in that atmosphere and being the flight chief,” Mortag said. “I was really honored that they selected me. I was the only enlisted person in a leadership role.”

Through her efforts, essential life support services to maintain sanitary living conditions were provided to keep the war fighters fit for duty.

By reconciling deficiencies in delivery orders Mortag was able to return \$3 million in excess funds to the government.

“When Major Hanson told me he was going to put me in for a DSM I told him I was just doing my job



and he said no you're doing a good job and that meant the world to me," Mortag said.

In addition to her awards Mortag was presented with a framed American flag, a letter and a coin from the Montana Military Appreciation Project in recognition of her service and sacrifice in the cause of freedom.

“I was told the worst thing to do is to get on that plane and fly away,” Mortag said. “But the hardest thing to do was getting on that plane at Kandahar because you make great friendships.”

Mortag's husband, Senior Master Sgt. Jeff Mortag; their three daughters; her parents, Earl and Diana Tresch; and her father and mother in-law, Dan and Nancy Mortag were present for the ceremony and received tokens of appreciation for their support.

“We thought this would be a great opportunity to capitalize on family and friends being able to come together in a little bit more quaint awards ceremony which I really like because you get to get the family members up here to be a part of it,” Mora said.

By: Staff Sgt. Michael Touchette
120th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Retirements

Airmen retiring from the 120th Airlift Wing this quarter.



Tech. Sgt. Matthew L. Ott	March 29, 2014
Master Sgt. Mark J. Moser	April 1, 2014
Master Sgt. Robert E. Bannister	April 1, 2014
Master Sgt. David P. Desmet	April 1, 2014
Master Sgt. Michael F. Lukas	April 1, 2014
Master Sgt. Michael R. Haman	April 1, 2014
Master Sgt. Anita J. "AJ" Hart	April 1, 2014
Senior Master Sgt. Monte D. Gardipee	April 1, 2014
Senior Master Sgt. David S. Gifford	April 1, 2014
Master Sgt. Kenneth T. Schmidt	April 1, 2014
Master Sgt. Robin T. Atkison	April 19, 2014
Master Sgt. Clinton W. Perry	April 28, 2014



As you move on into the next amazing chapter of your life,

Know that you will be missed,

Know that our very best wishes and thoughts go with you,

Come and visit us often -

For this is farewell and not goodbye.

HISTORY OF THE MONTANA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

On May 16, 1964 the Montana Air National Guard celebrated Armed Forces Day by marching in a parade in downtown Great Falls, complete with a fly-over by a formation of the unit's F-89J "Scorpion" jet fighters.

On Gore Hill, Montana's 16th Governor Tim M. Babcock paid the unit a visit, meeting with Airmen and getting a tour of the F-89J "Scorpion" jet fighter aircraft.

A veteran himself, Babcock served in the US Infantry in the European Theater during World War II

1964



News You Can Use

July 19 Boss Lift in Helena

Nominate your employer to take the ride of their life. Invite them to hop aboard a UH-60 Black Hawk or a CH-47 Chinook Helicopter

They will see the Montana Army National Guard in action. This is a way to thank them for their support of your service in the Montana National Guard.

The half- day Boss Lift will take place July 19 at the Army Aviation Support Facility, 3330 Skyway Drive, in Helena.

There is limited seating for this once in a lifetime invitation; **seating is on a first come, first served basis.** Guardsmen may only nominate one employer to participate in the event.

Registration is due by July 3 and may be obtained from Parker Sullivan Montana ESGR Program Support Technician at:

Email: parker.sullivan.ctr@ang.af.mil

Mailing Address: 120th Airlift Wing 2800 Airport Avenue B Great Falls, MT 59404

Phone: 406-791-0895

MTANG Satellite ALS Seeks Facilitators

The Montana Air National Guard was recently notified by the National Guard Bureau that there will be a Fall Satellite ALS class Oct - Dec 2014.

This is excellent news for Montana's Air National Guard Airman wanting to improve themselves by attending in-residence, but the program cannot continue without additional facilitators.

If you have graduated from in-residence PME, have a CCAF or Associates degree or higher, have a willingness to share your time and experiences with excellent Airmen, they need you.

If enough facilitators are trained, the Montana Air National Guard could also look at holding the Satellite Noncommissioned Officer Academy.

Contact the 120th Airlift Wing Force Development Superintendent, Senior Master Sgt, Tiffany M. Franklin, if you are interested in this excellent, career-broadening opportunity.

JEC Golf Tournament in July

The 120th Airlift Wing's Junior Enlisted Council will be holding a Golf Tournament beginning at 10:00 a.m. on July 26, 2014 at the Hickory Swings Golf Course in Great Falls.

Prizes will be awarded for Best Golf Outfit, Hole-In-One, Closest to Pin, Royal Hole and Longest Drive. Prizes include gifts and gift certificates from businesses around Great Falls.

The cost for participation is \$160 per four-member team and includes green fees & carts.

The event is limited to Guard members, families and friends and must have at least two Guard members on each team and is limited to 18 teams.

Email TSgt Erin Hoock at erin.hoock@ang.af.mil by July 11, 2014 to reserve your place in the tournament. Please include your golf team name and members.



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 the 120th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office at 791-2227.

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

Master Sgt. Jason Johnson



Master Sgt. Jason Johnson receives the Air Force Commendation medal from his squadron commander Lt. Col. Katherine H. Linton March 1, 2014 at the 120th Airlift Wing, Great Falls, Montana. (National Guard photo/Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson)

Master Sgt. Jason Johnson is well known for his graphic design. He has designed multiple wing coins, the Fighter Wing billboard. His most recent creation is the 120th Airlift Wing patch that is used on all 120th AW correspondence and the tail flash seen on the unit's aircraft.

His marketing materials for airshows and recruitment can be found displayed around base.

Johnson was instrumental in bringing the public affairs section up to date with software and technology to develop high quality print materials.

His skills, knowledge, and enthusiasm will be missed at the 120th Airlift Wing as he recently left the public affairs office for a position with Joint Force Headquarters, Helena, Montana.