COWBOY & GUARD







2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

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WYOMING ADJUTANT GENERAL

Maj. Gen. Gregory C. Porter

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Cowboy Guard is a news publication published annually to provide command and public information about Wyoming National Guard Soldiers and Airmen throughout the state. Cowboy Guard is produced by the Wyoming National Guard Public Affairs Office, Cheyenne, Wyo., in accordance with AR 360-1 and AFI 35-101.





Dear Readers,

It is important for us to look forward but we must also remember where we came from. The Wyoming Military Department has been and is a quality organization staffed with committed professionals working together to execute lethal combat operations across domains, protect our nation, and provide responsive assistance to Wyoming residents during times of need.

Cowboy Guard highlights the 2019 accomplishments of the soldiers, airmen, and civilians working together to ensure we succeed at those tasks. I, like the 26 Adjutants General before me, have the honor of leading these men and women as they continue to be the Sword and the Shield of our state and nation.

These men and women are our strength. Without strength, our Sword will break and our Shield will buckle. Together we will work to ensure that will not happen. The strength of this organization is my priority.

Our men and women remain heavily engaged in the warfight. In 2019, the Wyoming Army National Guard sent roughly 20% of its force structure out the door in its largest deployment in a decade. The Wyoming Air National Guard continued to send individual airmen and units – including the most deployed unit in Wyoming, the 187th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron – to support our overseas missions. We do not intend to slow down in 2020.

While deployments will continue, so will our relationships with federal, state, local, and international partners. Partnerships = success. The National Guard is, by its nature, an organization built on partnerships. We operationally support our active duty brothers and sisters. We provide a ready reserve to our first responders. We support our communities by being dedicated Citizen Soldiers/Airmen. My goal as Adjutant General is to ensure the 3,000 men and women employed, enlisted and committed to the Wyoming Military Department remain a professional, equipped, ready force. To be lethal. To be responsive. To sustain partnerships. To be the Sword and Shield.

Sincerely,

MG Gregory C. Porter Adjutant General

Wyoming National Guard





BUILDING LETHALITY

The Wyoming National Guard continues to build its lethality by updating and modernizing facilities and ranges at Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center, and across the state.

Camp Guernsey's 81st year brought important construction upgrades to its facilities.

The northern side of the camp's cantonment area was a flurry of activity as contractors finished building a new Regional Training Institute complex.

The three-building \$34.7 million project, which broke ground in 2017, added a 72,166 square foot General Instruction Building, a dining facility that can feed up to 400 people and new billeting adding 150 additional beds.

The complex is dedicated to former Wyoming Adjutant General, Lt. Gen. Rhodolph J. Esmay, who founded Camp Guernsey in 1938. Esmay served the state as Adjutant General for 35 years.

The complex is undergoing final touches in preparation for a March 2020 ribbon cutting.

Twenty-four miles up the road, in the camp's North Training Area, the Lt. Gen. Ed Wright Tactical Landing Strip also received much needed renovations.



The dirt landing strip, a necessary training area for the Wyoming Air National Guard's C-130 fleet, received a makeover from the Montana Air National Guard's 129th RED HORSE Squadron in August.

South Dakota National Guard engineers also provided improvements to the North Training Area.

Their nearly two-week stint at the training center involved installing new culverts, replacing degraded culverts and culminated in the finishing of an entry control point.

The squadron's members constructed a







hammerhead at the end of the strip allowing aircraft a more robust maneuver area for aircraft. Members of the engineer squadron ensured proper compaction of the soil, adequate drainage, and a level surface were left behind at the end of their two weeks of hard work.

Guernsey wasn't the only location to get upgrades in 2019.

The Wyoming Air National Guard's Cheyenne base got some much-needed rehab done to its 38,000 square-foot supply building.

The building, housing members of the 153rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, received interior and exterior makeovers totaling more than \$6.7 million.

The Wyoming Army National Guard also completed its \$26 million construction project in Laramie.

The Laramie Readiness Center officially opened its doors in June with a ribbon-cutting event.

The building replaces the old Laramie armory, constructed in 1959, located on the corner of 30th Street and Armory Road.

The University of Wyoming and Wyoming Military Department swapped that location for land near the Laramie airport for the new 101,000 square foot facility.



WHERE IN THE WORLD

2019 DEPLOYMENTS AND EXERCISES





399 SOLDIERS DEPLOYED



86 AIRMEN DEPLOYED



NORTHCOM

Soldiers and airmen deployed within U.S. Northern Command supported Hurricane Dorian relief efforts and a variety of training exercises



EUCOM

While deployed to U.S. European Command, airmen and soldiers supported the nation, mainly in Germany and Kosovo, providing airlift and peacekeeping security

DID WE GO?





AFRICOM

The majority of the Wyoming National Guard's U.S. Africa Command activities were in Tunisia, our partner country. One Wyoming soldier is stationed permanently there



CENTCOM

The Wyoming Guard members deployed to U.S. Central Command are deployed to support the nation's warfight in countries like Kuwait and Afghanistan, among others



PACOM

U.S. Pacific Command regularly hosts at least one Wyoming Air National Guard airman a year. 2019 was no exception with one airman spending time at McMurdo Station



A number of deployed soldiers are being promoted and reenlisting while in theater. Pictured on the left, a member of G Company, 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment, reenlists while deployed to Afghanistan.

"G Med," as the aviation battalion is called, left Wyoming in January 2019 for their Afghanistan-based deployment. The soldiers returned home in time for Thanksgiving with their families and friends.

Courtesy photo

Pictured on the right:

Command Sgt. Maj. Harold Pafford, Wyoming Army National Guard command sergeant major, hugs 1st Sgt. Durward Jones of the 115th Field Artillery Brigade, in July, as the unit boards a charter aircraft at the Wyoming Air national Guard base.

The brigade's soldiers are stationed at a number of Middle East locations. They will be home before Spring 2020.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Jon Alderman



Pictured on the left:

Deidre has the info on Mrs Gordon visit

Pictured on the right:

Deidre has the name of this soldier, works on a truck in the desert in November 2019. I will put something here.

Courtesy photos



DEPLOYMENTS



Pictured above:

Members of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 297th Infantry Regiment pose in a group photo with Wyoming's US Sen. John Barasso during his visit to their deployed location, in Kosovo, in October.

Pictured to the right:

Soliders from the 2nd Battalion, 300th Field Artillery Battalion fly thier guidon making thier deployed location feel more like home. Every Wyo. Army Guard unit deployed since the Korean War has taken an "Entering Wyoming" highway sign with them.

Courtesy Photos



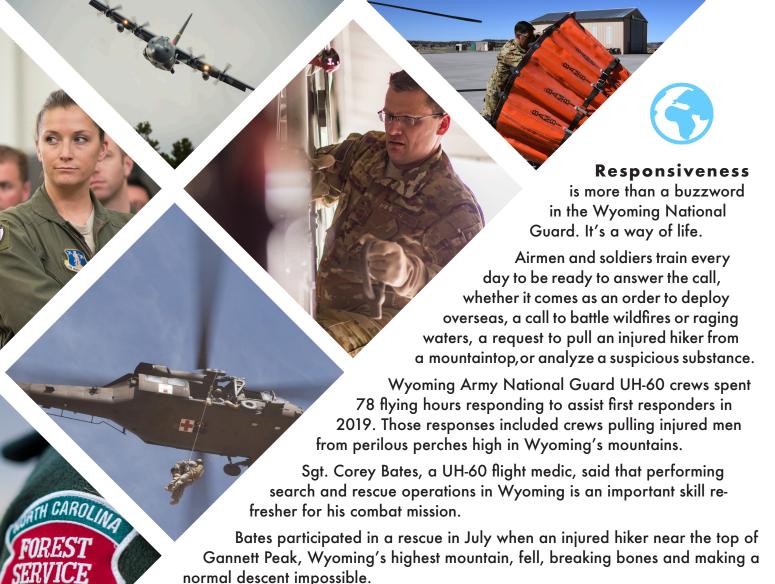
Pictured to the left:

(L-R) 1st Lt. Hunter Hinckley, Staff Sgt.
Brody Staman, Sgt. 1st Class Jesse
Barnhardt, Staff Sgt. Anthony Lopez,
and Staff Sgt. Jesus Aguilera, of Charlie
Company, 1st Battalion, 297th Infantry
Regiment, conduct a mission with an
Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit and
aviation units to secure safe landing zones
for aviation assets, in Kosovo.

Photo By 1st Lt. Andrew Viray, Alaska National Guard







normal descent impossible.

"Search and rescue goes beyond training," he said. "Being able to go to an area that is unfamiliar to us adds more difficulty (to a training exercise). Helping people anywhere whether overseas or stateside, as long as you're doing something to help someone else out, it's a good feeling," he said.

The Guard's dual mission of responding to the needs of state and nation is what annually drives the Wyoming Air National Guard's 153rd Airlift Wing to train in aerial firefighting.

The wing is one of four military units that, when requested by the U.S. Forest Service, responds to wildfires around the country.

The mission, known as MAFFS, which stands for the removable Modular Aircraft Fire Fighting System rolled into the belly of two of Wyoming's C-130H3's, is among the toughest mission the unit performs.

"This mission is especially challenging," said C-130 instructor pilot, Lt. Col. Alan Brown, who has flown MAFFS missions for 23 years. "When we do our MAFFS mission we get all those elements that limit performance (of the aircraft) because of the heat and elevation, and then add the airplane is extremely heavy, and then we fly at 150 feet about the ground in limited visibility with other aircraft around."

RESPONSIVENESS







Left: Members of the Wyoming Air National Guard's 153rd Security Forces Squadron respond to an active shooter threat in an October exercise. As the Air Guard's law enforcement arm, the defenders have to be prepared for anything - even a disgruntled employee with a weapon on base threatening other airmen.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Jon Alderman



Above: Sustaining the fight, Army food service specialists from the 960th Brigade Support Battalion, headquartered in Sheridan, get cooking in the CKT (Containerized Kitchen Trailer) at Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center during Annual Training in June 2019.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Frank Marquez

Left: Army National Guard combat medics brush up on lifesaving skills during training hosted by the 213th Regimental Training Institute, in Guernsey, Wyo.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class James McGuire

HEROES AMONG US

Gov. Mark Gordon and Maj. Gen. Greg Porter distributed Hero Among Us awards Nov. 2, during the annual Governor's Reception, in Cheyenne. The Heroes Among Us Award recognizes heroic efforts of Wyoming Military Department personnel who assist fellow citizens outside the scope of their military duties.



Staff Sgt. Steven Allred



2nd Lt. Ruth Bowen



Staff Sgt. Christopher Runnels

84TH CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM



First responders around Wyoming also take advantage of the skillsets available in the Wyoming National Guard's 84th Civil Support Team.

The 22-person unit is well versed in all things chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear.

"They can come in and support law enforcement, emergency management, any number of our response entities. That's really what's important is the civil support team's availability to us," said Terry Stevenson, Platte County's emergency management director.

In February of 2019, the Civil Support team held an exercise in the Platte and Goshen counties area, involving law enforcement and emergency management teams from the region.

Photos by Tyler Schiele











DID YOU KNOW?

- The North Africa American Cemetery is located in Carthage, outside of the country's capitol, Tunis. More than 2,800 American military members, including 11 from Wyoming, are buried there.
- Southern Tunisia was where scenes from "Star Wars" was filmed. It served as Luke Skywalker's home planet, Tatooine.
- Wyoming is 1.56 times larger than Tunisia.



TUNISIAN PARTNERSHIP

Partnerships are inherent in the Wyoming National Guard.

Whether they be with the civilian employers of more than 70% of our dual-status force, with families juggling military deployments and training requirements, or with governments and businesses, the Wyoming National Guard can't be successful without them.

Unique to the Wyoming National Guard's partnerships, is the 15-year one with Tunisia through the National Guard's State Partnership Program.

That partnership between Wyoming's National Guard and Tunisian military has resulted in numerous military-to-military

exchanges capitalizing on mutual capabilities in aviation (C-130 and UH-60), medical (ground and aeromedical evacuation), engineer and infantry training, among others.

In fact, aeromedical evacuation exchanges took place twice in 2019.

In the early part of the year, Tunisian medical officers visited Wyoming to learn more about the United States aeromedical procedures.

In the spring, Wyoming Guard aviators and flight medics went to Tunisia discuss capabilities and competencies.

In August, Tunisian infantry soldiers trained with Charlie





Company, 1st Battalion, 297th Infantry Regiment soldiers at Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center. Although the two-week training was rigorous, the groups found time to bond over dinners and football games.

In May Wyoming hosted the 33rd Joint Military Commission – the first time this high-level meeting was held outside of one of the national capitals – between the United States and Tunisia.

Among the dignitaries in attendance were the Tunisian Minister of Defense, the US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for African Affairs, the

US Ambassador to Tunisia, and the Tunisian Ambassador to the United States.

However, the Wyoming-Tunisia partnership is more than just a military one.

The University of Wyoming is developing an extensive engagement strategy with Tunisia, to include student and faculty exchanges and academic programs.

Wyoming's only 4-year university sent its first summer workstudy student to Tunis in 2019.

That student also happens to be a Wyoming Army National Guard member.









WILD WEST AIR SHOW

The Wyoming Air National Guard's Wild West Airshow, held July 24, brought more than 7,000 people to the 153rd Airlift Wing's ramp.

Aerial demonstrations made their way back into the annual open house lineup. Cheyenne's mayor opened the event by tandem jumping out of a plane high above the runway. Later in the afternoon, the U.S. Navy's Leap Frog parachute team jumped into the crowd. Biplanes flipped and whirled high in the sky. Children and their parents crawled around and in military aircraft and vehicles. Veterans were honored for their service. Food vendors kept everyone sated as the crowds watched and waved at the performers.

Col. Justin Walrath, 153rd Airlift Wing commander, said he enjoys having the community on the base for the annual event. "We are very much a community-based organization. Our airmen live and work in Cheyenne and it's important Cheyenne's residents, tourists and businesses can come onto the base to learn more about our organization and our missions. The support we receive from the community can't be discounted."





PARTNERSHIPS



Pictured left:

US Air Force Secretary Barbara
Barrett made her first official stop after
being appointed to the Wyoming Air
National Guard and F.E. Warren Air
Force Base. Wyoming National Guard
command staff, including Gov. Mark
Gordon and Maj. Gen. Greg Porter
greeted her upon landing.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Jon Alderman

Pictured right and below:

Cadets took time out of their day at STARBASE Academy to visit the Wyoming Air National Guard's fire department and the Wyoming Army National Guard's Army Aviation Support Facility. The STARBASE program teaches science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills to Cheyenne-area students.

Courtesy photos





Pictured right:

Members of the Wyoming Air National Guard's 153rd Civil Engineer Squadron and F.E. Warren's Civil Engineer Squadron moved a piece of Wyo. Air Guard history. A T-33 training aircraft that had previously been on display at the base, was moved across the runway system, airport property, and three fences to find a new home at the Wyoming National Guard Museum, on Pershing Boulevard.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Jon Alderman



Pictured left:

Wyoming Youth Challenge
Academy cadets pick up trash
during their 5 1/2 month stay at
Camp Guernsey Joint Training
Center. The cadets perform
service to the community as part
of the program.

Photo By Sgt. 1st Class Frank Marquez

Pictured right:

Staff Sgt. Brad Mercil, 153rd Airlift Wing safety supervisor, chats with members of the Rocky Mountain Safety Council during a tour of the Wyoming Air National Guard in October.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Jon Alderman

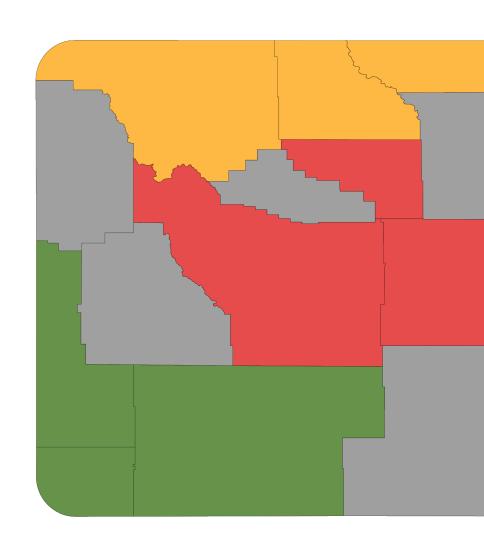






JUST * THE * FACTS





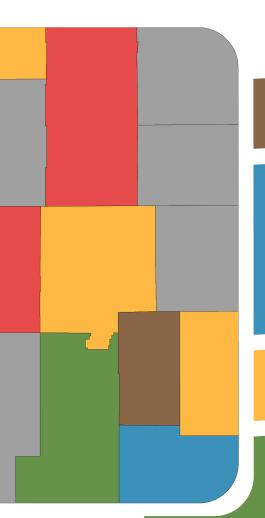
1,142 FULL TIME EMPLOY 214 Army AGR 231 Army Tech/T5 253 Air AGR 214 Air Tech/T5 25

Wyoming Army National Guard members live in 23 Wyoming counties and 34 other states

Wyoming Air National Gomembers live in 18 Wyoming counties and 33

2 0 \$ 9 113 MILLION BUDGET

105.95 MILLION FEDERAL 8.05 MILLION STATE



CAMP GUERNSEY TRAINING CENTER | Guernsey

Training Center Command - MAJ Michael Fields, 1SG Devin Worman 213th Regiment - LTC Jason Salsgiver (regiment), LTC Liann Brenneman (battalion), 1SG Timothy Smith

WYOMING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD | Cheyenne

Wyoming Army National Guard - BG Brian Nesvik, CCWO5 Doug Drost, Command Sgt. Maj. Harold Pafford

Joint Forces Headquarters - MAJ Ross McGee, 1SG Daryl Jackson

Wyoming Medical Detachment - COL Marshall Kohr

84th Civil Support Team - LTC Jonathan Seelye, 1SG Michael Upton

115th Field Artillery Brigade - COL Terry Jenkins (rear), COL Kent Porter (forward), CSM Thad Ehde

148th Signal Company - CPT Frank Derksen, 1SG Andy Gutierrez

Wyoming Recruiting and Retention Command - LTC Amir Pezeshki, CSM John Valasek, 1SG Edmundo Herrera

G Company, 1st Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment - CPT Eric Becker, 1SG Matthew Harmon

960TH BRIGADE SUPPORT SQUADRON | Sheridan (HQ), Lovell, Powell, Douglas, Torrington LTC Robert Rickgaur (battalion), CPT George Weiser (company), CSM Douglas Swingholm, 1SG David Reynolds

920th Forward Support Company - CPT Peter Cross, 1SG James Swingholm

94TH TROOP COMMAND | Laramie (HQ), Rock Springs, Wheatland Cheyenne, Evanston, Afton

94th Troop Command - LTC Toby Alkire (battalion), CPT Trevor Gaylor (company), CSM Lindsay Schmidt

2-300th - LTC Alex Fisher (battalion), CPT Luke Meyer (battery), CPT Ivo Wambeke (forward), CSM Jonathan Gillespie, 1SG Eric Hanson (forward)

133rd Engineer Company - CPT Terrance Bell, 1SG Joseph Buckholz

197th Public Affairs Deatchment - CPT Gabriel Bruyere

67th Army Band - WO1 Brett White, 1SG Charles Olivas

2-300TH FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT | Casper (HQ), Gillette, Lander, Worland

C Company, 2nd Battalion, 297th Infantry Regiment - CPT Spencer Jones (rear), CPT Eli Varney (forward), 1SG Curtis Jacobs

other states

WYOMING AIR NATIONAL GUARD | Cheyenne

Wyoming Air National Guard - Col Paul Lyman, CMSgt Josh Moore

153rd Airlift Wing - Col Justin Walrath, CMSgt Darren Nogle, MSgt David Sutter

153rd Comptroller Flight - Capt Klinton Holscher

B Battery, 2-300th - 1SG Paul Bennick

153rd Operations Group - Col Jeremy Schaad, CMSgt Ray Arnold

153rd Operation Support Squadron - Lt Col Jeremy Burton

A Battery, 2-300th - 1LT Ira Werger, 1SG Michael Clancy

187th Airlift Squadron - Lt Col Ryan Scofield

243rd Air Traffic Control Squadron - 2Lt Maxwell Mcmillian, CMSgt Jon Perkins, MSgt John Cox

153rd Command and Control Squadron - Col Jeremy Huffaker, CMSgt Joshua Fitch, CMSgt Samuel Carpenter, MSgt Mary Whitney

153rd Maintenance Group - Col Barry Deibert, CMSgt Douglas Franklin

153rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron - Lt Col Elizabeth Evans, CMSgt Scott Wagner, MSgt Katie Baker

153rd Maintenance Squadron - Lt Col Carl Johansen, CMSgt Paul Parsons, CMSgt John Moritz

153rd Mission Support Group - CMSgt Alan Stoinski

153rd Civil Engineer Squadron - Lt Col Gabriel Herrera, CMSgt Erik Smith, MSgt Amy Espedido

153rd Force Support Squadron - Lt Col Jeremy Sparks, CMSgt Charles Tarter

153rd Logistics Readiness Squadron - Lt Col Bret Tripple, CMSgt Brian Devine, CMSgt Jesse Johnson, MSgt Jerry Mears

153rd Security Forces Squadron - CMSgt Douglas Rhodes

153rd Communications Flight - Lt Col Michael Carden, CMSgt Jennifer Lovering

153rd Medical Group - Col Daniel Perala, CMSgt Sarah Brewster, CMSgt Jeremy Nash, MSgt Ashley Meyer



The Wyoming Military Department's priority is strength.

The number of men and women ready and able to deploy to serve the dual mission of the National Guard is the No. 1 item of concern for Maj. Gen. Greg Porter.

"Strength is my top priority. The number of soldiers and airmen in our ranks is important to ensure lethality in all our tasks," he said.

"Our goal is to have 2,875 soldiers and airmen in the Wyoming National Guard by the end of fiscal year 20."

The recruiting teams in the Wyoming Air National Guard and Wyoming Army National Guard are leading the charge for the agency.

Both services' recruiters are finding creative ways to get information to potential recruits about the benefits of military service.

Recruiters take their message to high schools and colleges, businesses and organizations, spreading the benefits of military membership far and wide.

They pepper social media with information and make use of virtual reality to allow recruits to "do" the job they are interested in performing in the military.

To ensure success from the beginning, the 153rd Airlift Wing's Student Flight and the Wyoming Army National Guard's Recruit Sustainment

STRENG

Program focus new enlistees on the skills to be successful at basic training and beyond.

Command teams across the state actively engage with their soldiers and airmen on retention within their units. Annually the Wyoming Air National Guard excels at retention, losing only about 10% of its force to resignation or retirement.

Pictured top left:

Col. Dave Herder, 153rd Airlift Wing vice commander, swears in Chief Master Sgt. Darren Nogle, wing command chief, for an additional tour, in October.

Photo by SMSgt Rob Trubia

Pictured below:

Members of the 153rd Airlift Wing student flight lines up for a group photo at a wing function in August.

Photo by SSgt Jon Alderman



CONTACT A RECRUITER

307-772-6333 | @153AWRECRUITING AIR STRENGTH GOAL: 1286





TH IS OUR PRIORITY



Pictured above: 1st Sgt. Curtis Jacobs, first sergeant for Charlie Company, 1st Battalion,m 297th Infantry Regiment, Co, slaps a unit patch on one of the newest members of the Wyoming Army National Guard during the Recruitment and Sustainment Program "Branding Ceremony." Occurring once a month, this ceremony recognizes all the recent basic trainee graduates with a certificate of completion from the RSP.

Pictured below:

New soldiers"branded" with a new unit patch and welcomed into their gaining units pose for a picture.

Photos by Spc. Kristina Kranz



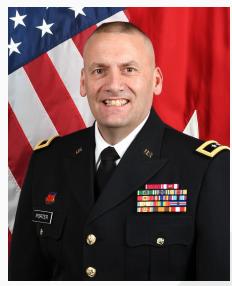




@WYOMINGARMYNATIONALGUARDRECRUITING | 307-772-5149 ARMY STRENGTH GOAL: 1,560



WYOMING NATIONAL GUARD LEADERSHIP



Maj. Gen. Gregory C. Porter The Adjutant General



Brig. Gen. Gene Hughes Cheif of Staff Air



Col. John Maier Chief of Staff Army



Col. Dave Herder Chief of the Joint Staff



Command Sgt. Maj. Harrold Pafford Army Command Sergeant Major



Chief Master Sgt.
Josh Moore
State Command Chief
Master Sergeant



Mr. Doug Shope Wyoming Military Department Deputy Director



Mr. Tim Sheppard
Wyoming Veterans
Commission Director



Brig. Gen. Brian Nesvik Assistant Adjutant General Army



Col. Paul Lyman Assistant Adjutant General Air



Brig. Gen. Steve Alkire Director of the Joint Staff



Col. Justin Walwrath 153rd Airlift WIng Commander



Col. John Papile U.S. Property & Fiscal Officer



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Doug Drost State Command Chief Warrant Officer



Mrs. Germaletta Brown STARBASE Academy Director



Mr. William Moore Wyoming Cowboy Challenge Academy Director



Col. Jeff Johnson Civil Air Patrol, Wyoming Wing Commander



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