

COWBOY GUARD





2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

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WYOMING ADJUTANT GENERAL

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Layout & Design by Tech. Sgt. Jon Alderman

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Major General Gregory C. Porter

Adjutant General, Wyoming National Guard

Dear Readers,

Every year we take an opportunity to reflect on the progress and accomplishments of our organization and those who committed to achieving them. This year is no different in that regard. No doubt, historians and those of us who experienced 2020 will remember the difficulties and uncertainties it brought. I'm reminded of a quote I've heard often this year from Mark Twain who said: "History doesn't repeat itself, but it often rhymes."

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, our Guardsmen assisted in the state to support hospitals carrying the mantra of the National Guard as 'Always Ready, Always There'. Our communities relied on us for much needed support, and YOU delivered.

Even though it was a difficult year in many respects, we also saw our Soldiers and Airmen uphold their oath to support and defend the state and Nation as a Sword and Shield. Our civilian and state employees continued to provide a full range of support to execute critical missions. There were joyous occasions of families greeting their deployed loved ones plane side after a successful overseas deployment. We learned how important we are to one another when we face adversity.

We also had an incredible year as we focused on our number one priority: strength. The Wyoming Army National Guard exceeded end strength goals and the Wyoming Air National Guard had a record number of accessions. We aren't able to fulfill our missions without our most important asset: our people.

We will continue to have strength as a priority and fill our authorized positions. While we continue to recruit and retain the best the state and nation have to offer it will guide us as we become more lethal, more responsive and continue to build partnerships.



ON THE COVER

1st Lt. Andrew Skretteberg earns prestigious Bronze Star

10.02.2020 | STORY BY CPL KRISTINA KRANZ / PHOTOS BY MSGT JACQUELINE MARSHALL



1st Lt. Andrew Skretteberg, of Worland, Wyo., was awarded the Bronze Star at a welcome home ceremony in Casper, Wyo., on Friday, Sept. 25. He was awarded the medal for his efforts while supporting Operation Inherent Resolve. His unit, Charlie Battery, 2-300th Field Artillery was deployed to Kuwait from May 2019 to March 2020.

Skretteberg said the award was a great honor and he's deeply humbled to have received it. He accredited the award not just to him but to all the Soldiers of C Battery, 2-300th FA.

"The great things we accomplished on this deployment were done together as one, and the camaraderie, devotion and love we have for one another is something that will last a lifetime." Skretteberg said. ***"Wyoming is a state unlike any other, filled with hard working, devoted, salt of the earth people and the Wyoming Guard is no exception to this."***

Skretteberg served as a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System Liaison Officer. It was while serving this deployment that he facilitated over 100 movements across four countries, which included cargo and personnel. Building relationships with other units further enabled his ability to initiate these movements, and was instrumental in the success of the 2-300th FA in their mission overseas.

"We were very lucky to have 1st Lt. Andrew Skretteberg as our Liaison Officer for our deployment. Without him, our movements within Iraq would have ground to a halt. He embodied The Code of the West by living each day with courage and doing what has to be done," said Capt. Timothy Tierney, battery commander of 2-300th FA.

Skretteberg's timely decisions while under extreme duress ensured the safety of 15 soldiers during the Iranian Ballistic Missile Attack on the morning of Jan. 8, 2020 in Iraq. With only a few hours forewarning, he was able to coordinate the movement that led the soldiers and himself away from the immediate vicinity of the attack.

It was for his distinguished efforts for saving the lives of 15 soldiers, and his decision making skills and actions during his deployment that led to the recommendation of his receiving of the Bronze Star.

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"While in Iraq he put the well-being of the soldiers under his charge above his own during multiple rocket and missile attacks on his position. His spirited action during the Iranian Theater Ballistic Missile attack on his position ensured the safety of those soldiers under his charge," Tierney said.
.....

The Bronze Star is the fourth highest ranking award a service member can receive. It is a signal of a service member's sacrifice, bravery and honor while serving their country. It can be awarded to members of all branches of service, as well as civilians who fight the enemy or save a wounded soldier.

"I am blessed to call this place my home and to be able to serve in one of the best formations in the world's greatest fighting force, the United States Army," Skretteberg said. "I look forward to spending many more years serving this great state alongside my brothers and sisters in the Wyoming Guard. Powder River!"





Lethality

U.S. Soldiers assigned to the 115th Field Artillery Brigade fire rocket-propelled rounds from a truck during an exercise with Kuwait Land Forces at their Udairi Range, Feb. 10, 2020. The 115th Soldiers from the Wyoming-based brigade deployed to support Task Force Spartan, an exercise to strengthen defense relationships, builds partner capacity, and jointly deter regional aggression.

(Photo by Master Sgt. Jeff Lowry)



Where did we go?

A total of 357 Soldiers and 324 Airmen deployed

2020 Deployments and Exercises

18

NORTHCOM

Soldiers and Airmen deployed within the U.S. Northern Command supported Natural disaster relief efforts and a variety of training exercises

76

EUCOM

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

25

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

498

CENTCOM

The Wyoming Guard members deployed to U.S. Central Command are deployed to support the nation's warfight in countries throughout the area of operations

64

STATE SUPPORT

The Wyoming National Guard completed 54 NATIONAL GUARD SUPPORT to CIVIL AUTHORITIES missions. Four missions involved state active duty deployed Soldiers and Airmen



The Army Goes Rolling Along

Members assigned to the 115th Field Artillery Brigade, Wyoming Army National Guard, board a charter aircraft for a nine month deployment to the Middle East at the Wyoming Air National Guard base Cheyenne, Wyo. on July 30, 2019. The deployment is in support of Task Force Spartan, an exercise to strengthen defense relationships, build partner capacity, and jointly deter regional aggression. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jon Alderman)



Army Guard Return





2



5



6



7

1,2,3,5,6 BY MICHAEL CUMMO/WYOMING TRIBUNE EAGLE | 4,7 BY MASTER SGT. JACQUELINE MARSHALL

Off We Go Into the Wild Blue Yonder

Members with the 153rd Airlift Wing carry gear onto a C-130 Hercules for an early morning departure to Southwest Asia at the Wyoming Air National Guard Base Cheyenne, Wyo. on February 25, 2020. Members are deployed to Southwest Asia as part of an AEF rotation. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jon Alderman)





Air Guard Return





2



5



6



7

1,3,4,6,7 BY TECH. SGT. JON ALDERMAN | 2,5 BY SENIOR MASTER SGT. ROB TRUBIA

*"I promise you that I will work the entire time I'm in this job to ensure that you know that you are important," said Deibert.
"This wing has done and will continue to do great things. Be proud of who you are and what you're capable of, you truly are the best of the best," - Col. Barry Deibert*



153rd Airlift Wing

Change of Command



U.S. Air Force Colonel Barry Deibert, commander of the 153rd Airlift Wing, renders salute to Colonel Paul Lyman, commander of the Wyoming Air National Guard, after assuming command of the 153rd Airlift Wing at the Wyoming Air National Guard Cheyenne, Wyo. on July 11, 2020. The passing of colors is a time honored military tradition that represents the transfer of authority and responsibility of a unit from one commanding officer to another. (U.S. Air National Guard photos by Tech. Sgt. Jon Alderman)

We are proud to share that Col. Barry Deibert assumed command of the wing on Saturday, July 11, 2020. We are grateful to Col. Justin Walrath for his outstanding and humble leadership, who was recognized in his Legion of Merit citation as one of the best wing commanders to ever serve here.

In Col. Deibert's speech to the wing, he challenged the experienced members of the 153rd to inspire our young airmen to dream and to always make sure they know they are important.

Col. Deibert grew up in Laramie and has been with the 153rd since 1986 when he enlisted as a young avionics systems specialist. He went on to receive his commission and earned his pilot wings in 1993. Col. Deibert has most recently served as the wing's aircraft maintenance squadron and group commander.



CYBER SHIELD

10.13.2020 | STORY BY CPL KRISTINA KRANZ

The Wyoming National Guard partnered with the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security to participate in a Cyber Shield 2020 exercise last month. Army and Air Guard members and state employees came together for the training event to test their capabilities for real-world cyberattack scenarios.

The state of Wyoming gains a lot from this type of partnership. One of the principal responsibilities of the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security is to support local jurisdictions in times of emergency. WOHS does that through a supply of state and federal resources, and partnerships with agencies like the Wyoming National Guard allow them to be able to help the communities of Wyoming.

The event was initially supposed to take place at Camp Williams, Utah. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, they had to re-evaluate and move the training to a virtual environment. Historically, Wyoming has sent service members to Cyber Shield exercises to augment other state and territory teams. This event was the first time Wyoming operated as an independent team, which was in response to being moved to a virtual environment.

Training like this gives everyone hands-on experience in the event they do get asked to support certain cyber defense security situations that might arise. If requested, the governor can activate the National Guard cyber defensive team. They can be called on to assist in an environment that might involve a company's critical infrastructure.

"Electrical companies, gas companies who have these large industrial control systems in their environment, we can potentially be called in to assist with that," says Chief Warrant Officer 4 Warren Burgess, the information security manager for the Wyoming Military Department. ***"Even though they are a private organization, because they are determined to be critical infrastructure, we can be brought in to assist."***

The team kicked off the exercise with a scenario in which a company was concerned about its network. The company asked for recommendations on their security. In the process of helping the company improve its security, the team discovered a breach. They responded to that breach by helping fight whoever attacked the network, tighten it down to where it was safe again, and get the company back to business as usual.

There were several different scenarios presented to the team. These scenarios included issues like website defacement, ransomware, and phishing attacks. Website defacement can be something as simple as changing a picture to make a company look bad. Ransomware is a form of malware that encrypts files, and the hacker demands money to fix said malware. The most common type of ransomware is phishing. Phishing is when a user clicks on a phishing e-mail attachment that could then send user names and passwords to a hacker who now has access to that network.

But there are systems in place set up to detect these types of attacks. Firewalls, intrusion detection systems, and even just an inventory of a company's network can alert users to possible issues.

"I am working on the log analysis team. That means I am utilizing tools and an intrusion detection system to try and look for alerts that the system has been compromised," says Tech. Sgt. Angel Wiles, a cybersecurity subject matter expert and participated in the exercise virtually. ***"I review lots of technical data that comes through, and then I have to decipher what that means, and what's happening so that I can report it to other teams who are also helping to monitor for those things."***

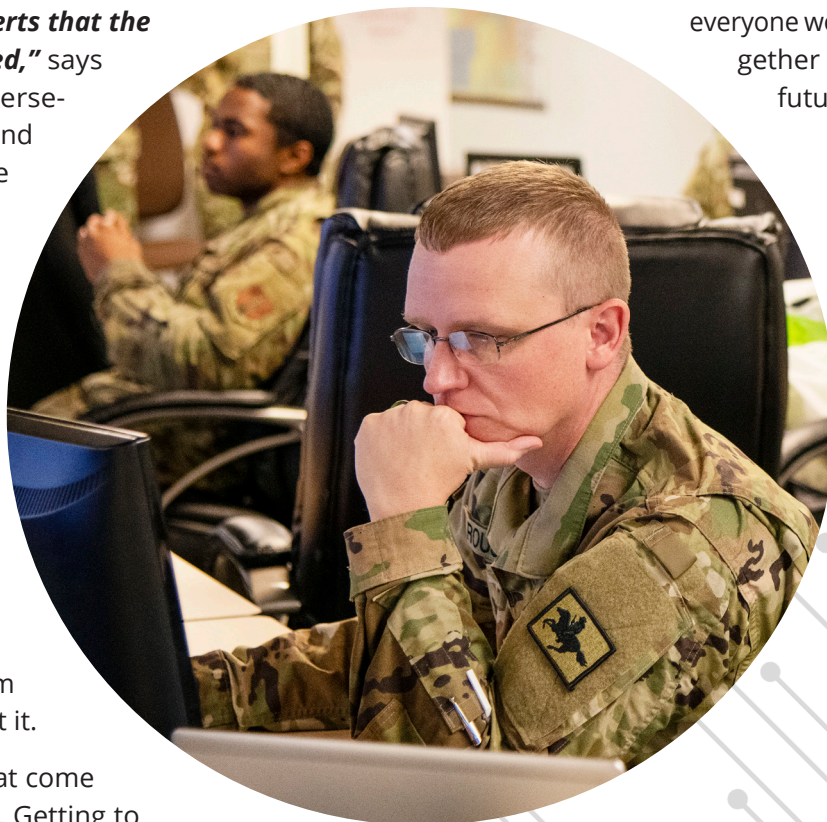
These tools help prevent cyberattacks on a system. If they don't stop an attack, they at least give the cyber team information they need to fight it.

There are a lot of benefits that come from a collaboration like this. Getting to

know faces and getting comfortable working with each other will make it easier in the future if they are all pulled in to assist in a cyber-defense situation. The team can also learn the different ways each person does things, and perhaps learn a new, more efficient way to do something.

"I think it's good to get a lot of outside perspectives, and lots of outside feedback, to say that's one way to do it, but you could also do x, y, and z," says Wiles.

The event was also the first time the team operated jointly. No one had ever interacted with each other before. Burgess reached out to find participants from the state first, then asked the Air Guard to see if they wanted to participate. They jumped on the opportunity. The exercise brought all the IT cyber responders into a single environment to train together. Burgess hopes this is the first step to help everyone work together in the future.



WYOMING AIR NATIONAL GUARD ACTIVATES NEW GROUP & SQUADRONS

09.13.2020 | STORY BY MR. RUSTY RIDLEY / PHOTOS BY SRA LEE MURPHY & A1C KYLIE WARREN



The Wyoming Air National Guard's 153rd Airlift Wing activated the 253rd Command and Control Group, 253rd Security Forces Squadron and the 253rd Support Squadron, Sunday, Sept. 13, 2020, at a ceremony at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo. The ceremony also featured assumptions of command for the new units and the re-aligned 153rd Command and Control Squadron.

Taking command of the units are Lt. Col. Jason Allen, 253rd CACG; Lt. Col. Wendy Allison, 253rd SPTS; Maj. Tonja Moon, 153rd CACS; and Capt. Jeffrey Castaneda, 253rd SFS. Col. Paul Lyman, assistant adjutant general, Wyoming Air National Guard, was the presiding officer.

"Some of you have been here since the beginning and know what it has taken to get to this important time," said Lyman. "Some of you are here for perhaps your first drill. Just the same, you are all part of this historic day and bring a different, diverse and valuable perspective for mission execution. It's important to remember our history and heritage as it shapes the way we think about the future."



U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Jason Allen (right), 253rd CACG, receives the guidon from Col. Paul Lyman, commander of the Wyoming Air National Guard, during a Group activation ceremony at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo. Sept. 13, 2020. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Lee Murphy)

"We are thrilled to be aligned into a group and squadrons construct as we support Air Force Global Strike Command, U.S. Northern Command and other mission partners," said Allen who earned his commission when he initially joined the unit. "This organizational and structural improvement better assists with the execution of our mission and provides the level of support needed to those requiring our mobile communications capability."



(U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Kylie Warren)

Other commanders reflected on what it means to take the guidon of a new unit. ***"It's an honor to be part of 253rd CACG, and I'm especially proud to lead the amazing airmen that make up 253rd SPTS,"*** said Allison who is taking her third command. ***"This ceremony signified the culmination of decades of work, and it is incredible opportunity to serve with all the dedicated airmen that make up 253rd CACG."***



Taking command of the units are (From left) Capt. Jeffrey Castaneda, 253rd SFS; Lt. Col. Wendy Allison, 253rd SPTS; Maj. Tonja Moon, 153rd CACS. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Airman 1st Class Kylie Warren)

"The opportunity to command such a unique unit is exciting," said Moon who previously served as the director of operations for the unit before its reorganization. ***"I'm looking forward to the opportunity to lead great people who work diligently every day to accomplish the mission."***

"I'm proud to take command of the SFS and to lead our proven defenders," said Castaneda who served previously as a commander in Florida, but also served as an enlisted airmen at the 153rd SFS. ***"I'm confident in their talent and abilities and what they bring to the organization."***

Lyman addressed airmen and those in attendance. ***"I'd ask all of you today: what are you doing to effect positive change from your position to make a difference to this mission and for airmen? You all, we all, are responsible for how we shape outcomes based on our attitude and actions. Employ every resource you have to be the very best, not just for yourself, but for this unit and others."***

A close-up, profile view of a female pilot in a military cockpit. She is wearing a large, black Bose headset with the brand name visible on the ear cup. She is wearing a camouflage flight suit. The cockpit is filled with various instruments, dials, and control panels. The view out the windshield shows a landscape with smoke or clouds, suggesting a wildfire. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and shadows.

Responsiveness

U.S. Air Force Capt. Elise Patrick, an aviator with the 187th Airlift Squadron, Wyoming Air National Guard, copilots a C-130 Hercules over wildfires in Colorado on October 16, 2020.

(U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jon Alderman)





WYOMING NATIONAL GUARD TO HELP FIGHT CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

09.14.2020 | BY MR. RUSTY RIDLEY / PHOTOS BY SSGT RYAN SHELDON (L) & MSGT JACQUELINE MARSHALL (R)

The Wyoming Army National Guard's G Company, 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment, was activated by Gov. Mark Gordon to support firefighting efforts in California.

One UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter and four crew members left Sept. 10 and will be operating from Mather Airport near Sacramento. The helicopter and crew will be in the area until Sept. 25 unless extended by request.

The Black Hawk is equipped with a collapsible bucket that holds about 660 gallons of water that can be dropped on hot spots that are difficult for ground crews to access.

"Our highly trained and experienced Soldiers continue to be a sword and

shield for the state and nation when called upon," said Maj. Gen. Greg Porter, adjutant general of Wyoming. ***"We have the capability to aid another state in need and provide another resource to California and their citizens to help mitigate the loss of life and property during what is now been characterized as California's worst fire season on record."***

The activation is in conjunction with National Guard Support to Civil Authorities and the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). When a governor declares a state of emergency or disaster, EMAC allows states to send personnel, equipment and commodities to assist with response and recovery efforts in that state.



FOR C-130 CREWS FIGHTING CALIFORNIA FIRES, THE MISSION CAN BE PERSONAL

08.21.2020 | COURTESY STORY BY BRIAN W. EVERSTINE, AIR FORCE MAGAZINE / PHOTO BY TSGT JON ALDERMAN

Specially equipped Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve C-130s, outfitted with Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems, are back on duty fighting wildfires rampaging across California after a year off because of a slow season.

Four USAF airlift wings carry MAFFS—a roll-on, roll-off system with a massive 3,000-gallon tank that shoots fire retardant out of the rear parachute door of the Hercules. As of Aug. 21, four of those aircraft are flying daily, fighting more than 360 fires across California. Two C-130s from the California Air National Guard's 146th Airlift Wing at Channel Islands Air National Guard Station are fighting fires within the unit's own backyard in Southern California, while two C-130s from the Wyoming Air National Guard's 153rd Airlift Wing are deployed to Sacramento to fight a series of complex fires in Northern California. Seventy-

nine personnel are activated in total. Within the next week, C-130s from both the Nevada Air National Guard's 152nd Airlift Wing and the Air Force Reserve's 302nd Airlift Wing will rotate in to provide relief for the crews.

"It's ramped up in intensity within the last week," said Col. Gregory Berry, commander of the 302nd Air Expeditionary Group, who is coordinating the response.

On Aug. 19, C-130s flew 23 sorties, totaling 21 drops, focusing on the massive LNU Lightning Complex fire near Vacaville. Just six or seven days before, all MAFFS aircraft were focusing on Southern California, before a massive lightning storm moved through Northern California, sparking a large number of fires. ***"If you asked me last week what we'd do, I would've guessed SoCal,"*** Berry said. ***"The need has moved."***

According to CalFire, over seven days ending Aug. 21 fires burned more than 1,200 square miles in the state. There were 560 total fires burning, with more than 10,000 firefighters on duty. As of Aug. 20, six people were killed and more than 30 injured, and more than 50,000 structures were threatened with 175 destroyed, according to the agency.

Since deploying in mid-July, the C-130s have flown a total of 156 sorties totaling 194.9 hours. They have conducted 144 drops of 394,666 gallons or 3,540,154.6 pounds of retardant as of Aug. 20.

The C-130s are activated by 1st Air Force (Air Forces Northern) in response to Defense Department approval of a U.S. Forest Service request—the agency that actually owns the firefighting system. The rest of the year, the C-130s are



regular Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve planes.

Every day, an incident commander on the ground fighting the fires calls for aviation assistance, and that request goes into an area coordination center that tasks out aircraft—similar to how a combined air operations center builds an air tasking order for combat operations. The MAFFS C-130s are “one piece of the air puzzle,” with other aircraft such as CalFire’s own fleet or contractor aircraft also available.

“It’s a very organized system, a mix of different assets,” Berry said.

For example, on Aug. 22 two aircraft were exclusively targeting the LNU fire. Once they arrived on sight, they worked with a lead plane and crews on the ground for where to drop the retardant.

The liquid, a pink chemical “slurry” instead of water, is dropped not on the fire itself, but instead ahead of the fire line so the flames don’t have fuel to move further and give those on the ground space to work.

The aircraft are able to drop into terrain that ground crews can’t move to and get hard to reach areas, Berry said.

MAFFS units bring in ***“extremely experienced”*** aircrews to fly the missions, since dropping on fires is difficult. For example, a C-130 might have to fly 120 knots at 150 feet off the ground, ***“slow and very heavy,”*** on the leading edge of a fire with smoke and heat turbulence, and poor visibility to boot, Berry said. Pilots need to be formation air dropped qualified, and usually have years of experience before entering the program.

The crews train every spring with other firefighting crews in mountainous areas to prepare for fire season.

The California units fly the newer J-models, and deploy with a crew of four. This season, it is personal for this wing because

the fires are so close, Berry said. ***“It is literally their backyard,”*** he said.

“It’s 100 percent personal. We are all passionate about it.” Flying in your own town ***“brings on a personal element”*** and a drive to ***“get that thing to bed,”*** he said.

The other units fly the older H-model, and deploy with an aircrew of six plus the maintenance element. For Berry’s home unit, the 302nd Airlift Wing, the unit had their major personal fight with the 2012 Waldo Canyon fire that burned more than 18,000 acres near their home base.

“That one was absolutely personal. We’re honored to be part of the solution again and get that thing to bed,” Berry said, ***“We want to help Americans, period.”***

Flying MAFFS airdrops can be instantly gratifying for crews, seeing the retardant save a house or make things easier for ground crews in ***“horrific conditions,”*** Berry said.

“We’re passionate about this mission,” he said. ***“Arguably the most rewarding thing we can do is to help fellow Americans in their time of need.”***



We fight fires to serve all of our fellow Americans, and sometimes it really hits close to home. Our own Chief Master Sgt. Joshua Fitch's sister, Sara Tamir truly appreciates our efforts. Sara lives in Northern California where fires have forced families to evacuate their homes and clouded the air with smoke. Chief Fitch told us that unhealthy air kept Sara's family inside for over 30 days, and Wyoming airplanes over California helped the two of them feel connected. Sara said she is grateful and proud of her brother's unit because she knows that airplanes from over 1,000 miles away are in the skies fighting fires across her state.

We are here for you and your family
-Wyoming Air National Guard



WYOMING NATIONAL GUARD CALLED UPON TO ASSIST WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

10.06.2020 | BY MR. RUSTY RIDLEY / COURTESY PHOTOS



Members of the Wyoming Military Department have been requested by the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH), and activated by Gov. Mark Gordon, to temporarily assist with voluntary COVID-19 mapping (contact tracing) efforts and other associated administrative tasks.

A total of 20 Soldiers and Airmen began State Active Duty orders Tuesday, Oct. 6, for a period of 30 consecutive days and will be assigned as teams to WDH. Their primary responsibility will be to help call Wyoming residents who have tested positive for COVID-19 or who have come in contact with someone who has. They will serve to augment current WDH staff and local county partners by providing information and resources to those affected and collecting voluntary information.

"We are always ready to stand in partnership with our fellow state agencies when they request assistance," said Brig. Gen. Steve Alkire, director of the joint staff for the Wyoming National Guard. ***"Our Soldiers and Airmen are trained and prepared to work with civil authorities with the***

aim of minimizing and mitigating impacts of the current pandemic."

The guardsmen assigned will perform their functions at a variety of locations in the state to include armories or at the Joint Forces

Readiness Center or State Response Coordination Center located in Cheyenne.

"We are grateful for the assistance the Wyoming National Guard is willing to provide our department during a critical period," said Stephanie Pyle, Public Health Division senior administrator with WDH. ***"We've seen the number of cases in the state grow in recent weeks. The additional support for us and for our local county partners will greatly help our efforts at this time."***

The orders for the guardsmen can be extended beyond the initial 30 days by request and subsequent order by the governor.



EIGHT JOIN THE FIGHT IN CASPER

12.04.2020 | STORY & PHOTO COURTESY OF WYOMING MEDICAL CENTER

Wyoming Medical Center is thrilled to welcome these eight men from the 153rd Airlift Wing of the Wyoming Air National Guard. The airmen will spend the next couple of weeks helping WMC in our pandemic response, primarily working at our Respiratory Symptom Screening Clinic. They will also help as needed in other departments. The 153rd is based in Cheyenne, and four of the team are from Colorado while four live right here in Casper.

"It feels awesome to help Wyoming Medical Center," said Command Chief Darren Nogle. "While we do deploy overseas when called, the core of our mission is to represent and serve our state. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for me because, while this is my fourth active duty assignment in Wyoming, it is my first time serving my hometown. And that is really important to me, as I'm sure it's important to the other members as well."

Other members of the 153rd pictured here include: Airman 1st Class Eric Soholt of Denver, Airman 1st Class Jarett Wing of Casper, Staff Sgt. J.D. McDaniel of Colorado, Airman 1st Class Justin Carson of Castle Rock, Colo.; Airman Aaron Bennett of Casper, Staff Sgt. Dan Klietz of Casper, and Chaplain Damon Stage of Littleton, Colo.

We appreciate their time, service and dedication.

WYOMING AIR GUARD DEPLOYS IN SUPPORT OF COVID TASK FORCE WEST

04.30.2020 | STORY BY SMSGT ROB TRUBIA AND MSGT MICHAEL HENSALA / PHOTOS BY SSGT DEVIN NOTHSTINE

9 members of the Wyoming Air National Guard's 187th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron deployed on April 23 to Travis Air Force Base, California, as part of COVID Task Force West.

The Airmen have been tasked to set up a new Aeromedical Evacuation Operations Team for the Air Force's COVID patient transport operations. Working in a makeshift office space at Travis AFB, the Wyoming airmen are acting as the operations directors for advanced trained aeromedical evacuation crews.

"Specifically, the Wyoming team is tracking Department of Defense COVID patient movements, incoming and outgoing medical crews and aircraft missions. They are also responsible for tracking flight training and currency as well as maintaining 800 pounds of medical equipment for each aircrew, and the safe on and offload of the Transportation Isolation System (TIS)," said Maj. Melissa Stevens, executive officer of the 187th AES.

The TIS was initially designed and built for patient transport during the West African Ebola outbreak but was first used operationally on April 10, 2020, to transport U.S. government contractors who tested positive for coronavirus from Afghanistan

to Ramstein Air Base. The tracking of these critical medical crews is one of the key functions of the Wyoming guardsmen.

"Having crews that are ready to fly per Air Force regulations is a full-time job," said Master Sgt. Michael Hensala, health systems specialist of the 187th AES.



"The aeromedical crews flying these COVID patients are also facing a new challenge due to the number of medical personnel on each crew. A typical crew is two flight nurses and three EMTs. These crews consist of a seven-person medical crew with three flight nurses and four EMTs, a three-person critical care air transport team consisting of one doctor, one critical care nurse, one respiratory therapist, and additional infectious disease specialists and Transportation Isolation System (TIS) repair technicians," added Hensala.

The initial tasking requested that the Wyoming airmen deploy for 120 days with a provision to swap members out at 60 days. COVID Task Force West is one part of the Air Force's overall COVID response with multiple hubs across the continental United States, Pacific Air Force and European theaters of operation.



TEAM FAIRCHILD SUPPORTS AEROMEDICAL

11.13.2020 | SRA LAWRENCE SENA, 92ND AIR REFUELING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Airmen from Team Fairchild's 92nd Air Refueling Squadron, 93rd ARS, 384th ARS, 97th ARS and 92nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, conducted an aeromedical evacuation mission Nov. 7-13, bringing patients in need of medical care from the Pacific back to the United States. Fairchild Airmen worked alongside Wyoming Air National Guard Airmen from the 187th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron and 18th AES, traveling across the Pacific Ocean to Kadena Air Base in Japan. ***"It takes a lot of coordination and communication,"*** said Tech. Sgt. Alex Klinger, 187th AES aeromedical evacuation technician. ***"Most of our [AE] units are pretty new to working with KC-135s, so working together is crucial, and communication is key."*** Aeromedical

evacuation missions consist of critical care transport teams executing patient movement and care, using mobility aircraft such as the C-17 Globemaster III, C-130 Hercules and KC-135.

"We normally operate out of our unit C-130 and work in C-17s," Klinger said. ***"Working in the KC-135 is a great training opportunity for both crews to work together."*** Even though the primary mission of the KC-135 is extending Global Reach through air refueling, Stratotankers are capable of supporting a variety of missions including cargo delivery, AE, passenger delivery, serving as a communication platform and more. ***"The tanker is built to refuel other aircraft, but we can also lift a considerable***

ICAL EVACUATION ACROSS PACIFIC



amount of cargo,” said Capt. Chris Perry, 384th ARS KC-135 pilot. “We are one of the fastest heavy aircraft the Air Force has, and we have plenty of space to carry patients and other passengers as well.”

Aeromedical evacuation is one of the most important and challenging missions for aircrew, and can take place at anytime, anywhere. *“Sometimes we have service members who are in need of urgent medical care they may not have access to,”* Perry said. *“As a KC-135 unit, our responsibility is to be a stable platform they can rely on. We have to be on time, to make sure the medical team is able to get what they need and ensure the successful transportation of patients.”* Upon completion of

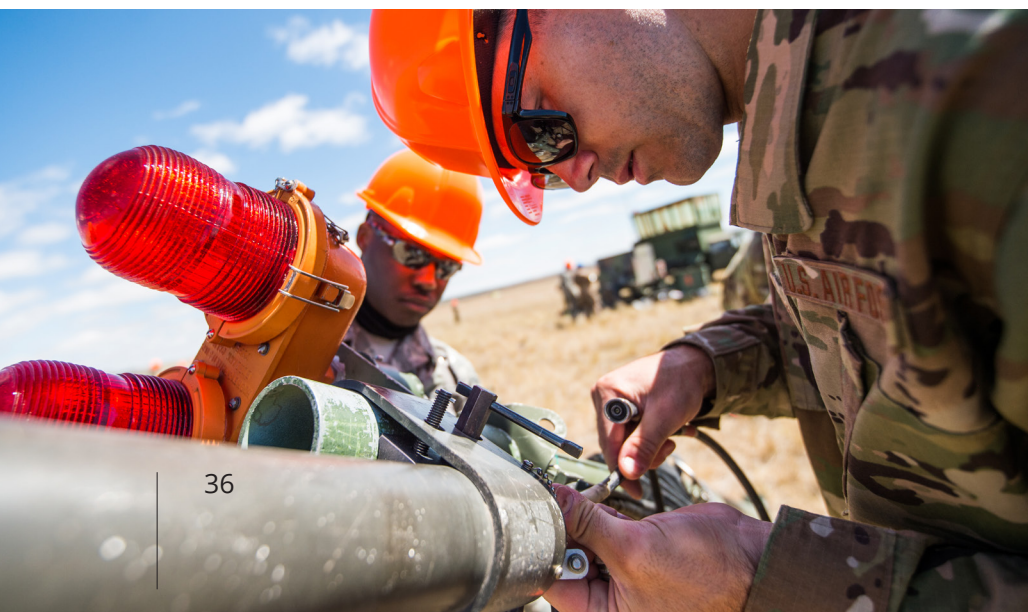
this AE mission, Team Fairchild was able to ensure the safety and care of 18 patients and their families, while delivering over 2,000 pounds of cargo to additional units across the Pacific.

“It is really awesome to be able to go somewhere and give people help that they otherwise would not be able to receive,” Perry said. *“It’s a different kind of mission to go and save lives, and being a part of that has definitely been rewarding.”*

By working with Pacific Air Force and Total Force partners from the 187th AES and 18th AES, Team Fairchild Airmen were able to ensure a continued investment in a high quality of life and medical service for Airmen and joint partners in the Pacific.

243rd Air Traffic Control Squadron

Members from the 243rd Air Traffic Control Squadron with the 153rd Airlift Wing, Wyoming Air National Guard, set up their mobile Air Traffic control equipment on July 14, 2020 at Camp Guernsey, Wyo. The 243rd ATCS is one of only ten Air National Guard Air Traffic Control Squadrons located throughout the United States. Their mission is to deploy and employ Air Traffic Control services worldwide and an important part of the Guard air traffic control mission includes establishing bases in locations without existing air traffic control facilities. (U.S. Air National Guard photos by Tech. Sgt. Jon Alderman)







Partnerships

U.S. Army Capt. Sarah Brewer, a nuclear medical science officer with the Wyoming National Guard's 84th Civil Support Team (CST), prepares test samples for COVID-19 from the mobile laboratory parked at the Wyoming Public Health Laboratory in Cheyenne, Wyo., May 4, 2020. The 84th CST is working in partnership with the Wyoming Department of Health state lab to support increased COVID-19 testing capacity.

(U.S. Air National Guard photo Master Sgt. Jacqueline Marshall)





PARTNERSHIP RESULTS

05.18.2020 | STORY BY MSGT JACQUELINE MARSHALL & KIM DETI / PHOTOS BY MSGT MARSHALL

IN A TIME OF CRISIS, the Wyoming Public Health Laboratory (WPHL), which is part of the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) is collaborating with the Wyoming National Guard's 84th Civil Support Team (CST) to deploy the CST's mobile laboratory at the WPHL to support increased COVID-19 testing capacity.

The CST and WPHL have been partnering since early March when two CST laboratorians joined the WPHL surge team to perform COVID-19 testing.

The mobile laboratory is equipped with a rapid diagnostic testing platform that will allow for more testing to be performed at WPHL as well as a faster turnaround time for high-priority specimens.

Capt. Sarah Brewer, Nuclear Medical Science Officer, and Capt. Kevin Messamer, Medical Operations Officer, run the mobile laboratory.

"They have been very flexible in applying their high-level skills to this particular problem and also done a lot of work in cultivating and developing the partnership with the state lab and the relationships that we have with the folks there," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Jonathan Seelye, commander of the 84th CST. ***"I'm really proud of them for doing that."***

Cari Sloma, WPHL director with WDH, said she believed WPHL staff members had really stepped up to accommodate Wyoming's COVID-19 testing needs. ***"Together with partners such as the CST, our entire team has worked hard to bring on testing, expand our capacity, and find ways***





IN SUCCESS



to support the sample collection needs of healthcare facilities across the state. Looking ahead, we're really excited about the new testing capabilities the CST crew is helping us bring in."

To date, Brewer and Messamer have helped WPHL test 788 samples. Last week, the CST team received rapid testing equipment that will increase their total capacity to 320 samples per week.

Seelye explained that the equipment will allow them to provide the highest level of support they can by focusing on accelerating the results of certain high-priority COVID tests.

"I think we are developing and growing an already fantastic relationship with WDH. I believe working with other state agencies in Wyoming has always been a pleasure," said Seelye. ***"It's the Wyoming way. We roll up our sleeves and we find a way to do what we need to do for the people of Wyoming. I'm proud that the CST can be a part of that and provide support to the state."***

Seelye noted the pandemic can remind people of the importance of the state lab and the unique federal-state partnership with the Wyoming National Guard. ***"Working together greatly benefits Wyoming during this fight to control the spread of COVID-19,"*** said Seelye.



VISITORS FROM TUNISIA

09.30.2020 | STORY BY CPL KRISTINA KRANZ / PHOTOS BY TSGT JON ALDERMAN & CPL KRANZ

The Wyoming National Guard hosted an Aviation Familiarization (FAM) Event in Cheyenne, Wyo., Sept. 13-25, 2020, in which members of the Tunisian Air Force participated. Tunisia is Wyoming's state partner for the National Guard's State Partnership Program (SPP). The two have been partners since 2004. This event is the first time in nine months that the partners have been able to get together for a subject matter expert exchange.

The SPP has been going strong for over 25 years. As of June 2020, it now includes 82 partnerships with 89 countries around the world, with 15 from Africa alone. The SPP is a security cooperation program managed by the National Guard Bureau. States are partnered with foreign nations based on size, location and mission. Tunisia shares similarities with Wyoming including tourism, economic interests and military equipment.

"The State Partnership Program is a DOD security cooperation program run by the National Guard Bureau and executed by each state. We have enduring partnerships with countries across the globe," says Maj. William Lindmier, the State Partnership Program Director for Wyoming. ***"We've been partnered with Tunisia for 16 years. We conduct military to military engagements throughout the year in support of the combatant commander strategic objectives."***

The FAM event kicked off with the guard welcoming the Tunisian members on Sept. 14 at the

Joint Force Readiness Center, where leadership from the Wyoming Air and Army National Guard greeted them with a culturally influenced coffee social. They began the event with a tour of the facilities where they would be working for the next two weeks.

The event included familiarization in helicopter and C-130 maintenance, aviation operations focused on aerial firefighting, search and rescue and domestic response. Other areas included aeromedical evacuation, response to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive hazards, as well as a medical program at the Wyoming State Lab, Cheyenne VA Hospital, and a Northern Colorado COVID-19 response hospital.

The 13 Tunisian members consisted of C-130 and UH-60 pilots and two doctors from the Tunisian Medical Corps. The event revolved around subject matter expert exchanges with the 84th Civil Support Team and 153rd Air Wing at the Wyoming Air Guard and the Army Aviation Support Facility on F.E. Warren





AFB. All of these visits included academic and practical exercises.

"They will be conducting a series of events rotating around the UH-60 M helicopter and the C-130 Hercules airframes. These events are really a culmination of a series that were cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions through the course of the summer," says Lindmier.

Wyoming gains a lot with these types of exchanges.

"All of our events are mutually beneficial," Lindmier says. ***"When we work side by side we find that both agencies improve as we learn tactics, techniques and procedures from our Tunisian counterparts."***

Lt. Col. Ramzi Ridene, the Tunisian commander, also gave remarks on the FAM event.

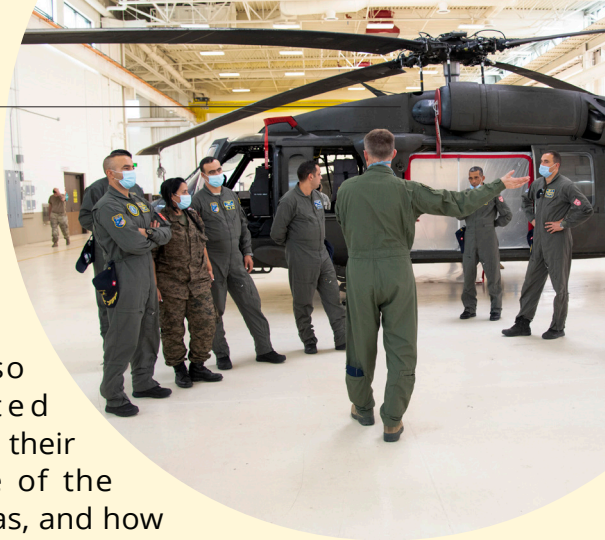
"I want to thank the Wyoming National Guard leadership and whole team for their hospital-

ity and the wealth of shared experiences," Ridene says.

Ridene also commented on how rich their experience of the program was, and how much they look forward to further cooperation and enhanced exchanges.

The FAM event went beyond the classroom. The Tunisians experienced local Wyoming culture with a tour of the State Museum and the State Capitol. They were also able to watch the Laramie County Community College Rodeo and visit several Wyoming outdoor gems, including Curt Gowdy State Park and the Vedauwoo Recreation Area.

"Especially right now, during COVID-19, our own ability to maintain relationships and contact with our families, friends and neighbors is strained. We also find that our international partnerships are strained as well." Lindmier goes on to say, ***"It makes it that much more important that we are fortunate to conduct this type of event with our international partners, to maintain these enduring relationships that have lasted so long, with hopes that they will continue to be great partners for years and years to come."***





BLACKOUT EXERCISE

02.06.2020 | STORY BY CPL KRISTINA KRANZ / PHOTOS BY CPL KRANZ & MSGT JACQUELINE MARSHALL



Personnel from the Joint Operations Center, JOC, at the Joint Force Readiness Center in Cheyenne, Wyo., are conducting exercise ***"Lights Out,"*** Feb. 6-8, 2020.

The blackout cold weather exercise is intended to simulate a real-world scenario in the event the National Guard gets called to active duty by the Governor of Wyoming. The National Guard works in partnership with civilian authorities to help with situations like road closures and search and rescue if needed.

"It helps build relationships,"

Col. Dane Rodgers of the Army National Guard says, ***"That's where we really focus on with the joint staff, is working with civilian partners."***

Although the exercise was planned a while ago, the actual weather being frigid and windy makes for a more realistic scenario. The team is allowed to use cell phones and laptops, but only until the batteries die. They adapted to the use of analog tools like paper, pencil, and whiteboards, to write down all information. Apart from the natural light coming in from

the windows, lanterns lit up the dark areas of the room.

"It's very coincidental," Rodgers says, ***"because we had this planned as a scenario already, and then we got the storm earlier this week."***

When the National Guard is called to active duty, relationships with civilian authorities need to be in place in order for everything to run smoothly.

"The people that work here at the JOC full-time, go to all the different counties," Lt. Col. Tina Tweedy of the Air National Guard says, ***"and you have to develop relationships with all of the emergency managers in those counties so they know who we are, and what our capabilities are."***

The Wyoming Civil Air Patrol was also present. An auxiliary of the Air Force, they were invited to observe the exercise and share their abilities with the guard, and vice versa, learning about new resource tracking tools.

"It's a good opportunity for us to talk with the people here in the JOC," says Lt. Col. Rick Fawcett of the Wyoming Civil Air Patrol, ***"we sincerely appreciate the invitation to come and observe, just to build our working relationship. There are some new tools available to help keep track of resources, so we're sharing those."***



GILLETTE LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES THE WYOMING NATIONAL GUARD

02.20.2020 | PHOTOS BY CPL KRISTINA KRANZ



WYOMING STARBASE ACADEMY

Our mission is to provide a team-centered, goal-oriented environment that encourages and motivates at-risk youth to further explore STEM education and careers.



Wyoming STARBASE Academy is a Department of Defense Youth Program operated in partnership with the Wyoming National Guard and Wyoming Military Department since 1994.

It is located in Cheyenne, Wyoming at the Raper Armory, but prior to that, it was located at the Wyoming Air National Guard Base.

This premier educational program serves, free of charge, fifth grade public, private, and home-school students in Laramie County, Wyoming. Through team-work, students participate in challenging ***"hands-on, mind-on"*** activities in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Students also interact with military personnel to explore careers and make connections with the "real world". The program provides students with 20-25 hours of exemplary instruction, using a common core curriculum that meets or exceeds the national standards. Wyoming STARBASE activities include several hands-on science labs, activities centered on the Engineering Design Process, mapping activities with maps specifically designed for the STARBASE Program by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, designing and launching straw rockets, and working with the CREO Elements/Pro Com-

puter-Aided Drafting software, a software program used by several of the nation's leading manufacturing companies.

The academy focuses on serving student groups that are historically under-represented in STEM careers when they enter into the workforce, such as students from high poverty and rural areas.



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020!

WYOMING COWBOY CHALLENGE ACADEMY

The mission of the Wyoming Cowboy Challenge Academy is to provide a safe, disciplined and professional learning environment that empowers non-traditional learners (ages 16-18) to improve their educational level and employment potential and become responsible productive citizens of the State of Wyoming.



The Wyoming Cowboy Challenge Academy, or WCCA, is an accredited five-and-a-half-month-long residential academy designed to provide structure, instill discipline and help young men and women recognize and achieve their potential in a quasi-military training environment.

WCCA is a state agency operated under the oversight of the Wyoming Military Department. As such, it is 75 percent federally funded and 25 percent funded by the State of Wyoming.

WCCA is one of 40 programs nationwide, which are all part of the National Guard Bureau's Youth Challenge Program. The National Guard Bureau founded the Youth Challenge Program in 1993 and has graduated more than 150,000 participants nationwide. The Wyoming Cowboy

Challenge Academy opened its doors in January 2006.

The program encompasses two phases: The residential phase and the post-residential phase. The residential phase focuses on structure, leadership development, discipline, and academics. The post-residential phase takes place after graduation, where cadets put their newly-learned skills to the test with the help of a trained mentor nominated by the cadet.

The Wyoming Cowboy Challenge Academy operates two classes per year: One begins in January, the other in July.

The Academy also uses the camp's Dining Facility for meals, the camp Chapel for presentations

WCCA has graduated 1,098 cadets!



and optional faith/spiritual training, the Obstacle and Confidence courses as well as other services to meet Academy needs. The WCCA greatly appreciates Camp Guernsey's leadership and support to our mission; without these enablers WCCA's success would not be possible. In July 2012, the program adopted its current name, the Wyoming Cowboy Challenge Academy (WCCA), and embraced the State's official code, the Code of the West. A Cowboy Ethics curriculum has been added and is now an integral part of the WCCA's program.

The Wyoming Cowboy Challenge Academy is designed around an intervention model built on eight core components needed for successful living. Much of the skill development process is based on deliberate experiential learning situations created by the staff.

*Academic Excellence | Life Coping Skills | Job Skills | Health and Hygiene | Responsible Citizenship
Service to the Community | Leadership/Followership | Physical Fitness*



People

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Alexis Lehmann, a crew chief with the 153rd Airlift Wing, Wyoming Air National Guard, monitors operations on the flight deck of a C-130 Hercules aircraft to support U.S. Navy Operations training in San Diego, California on Oct. 13, 2020. The training involved dropping supplies and Naval personnel to specified landing zones off the coast of California.

(U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jon Alderman)



1,198 Full Time Employees

193 Army AGR 241 Army Tech/T5 297 Air AGR 230 Air Tech/T5 237 State

WYOMING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

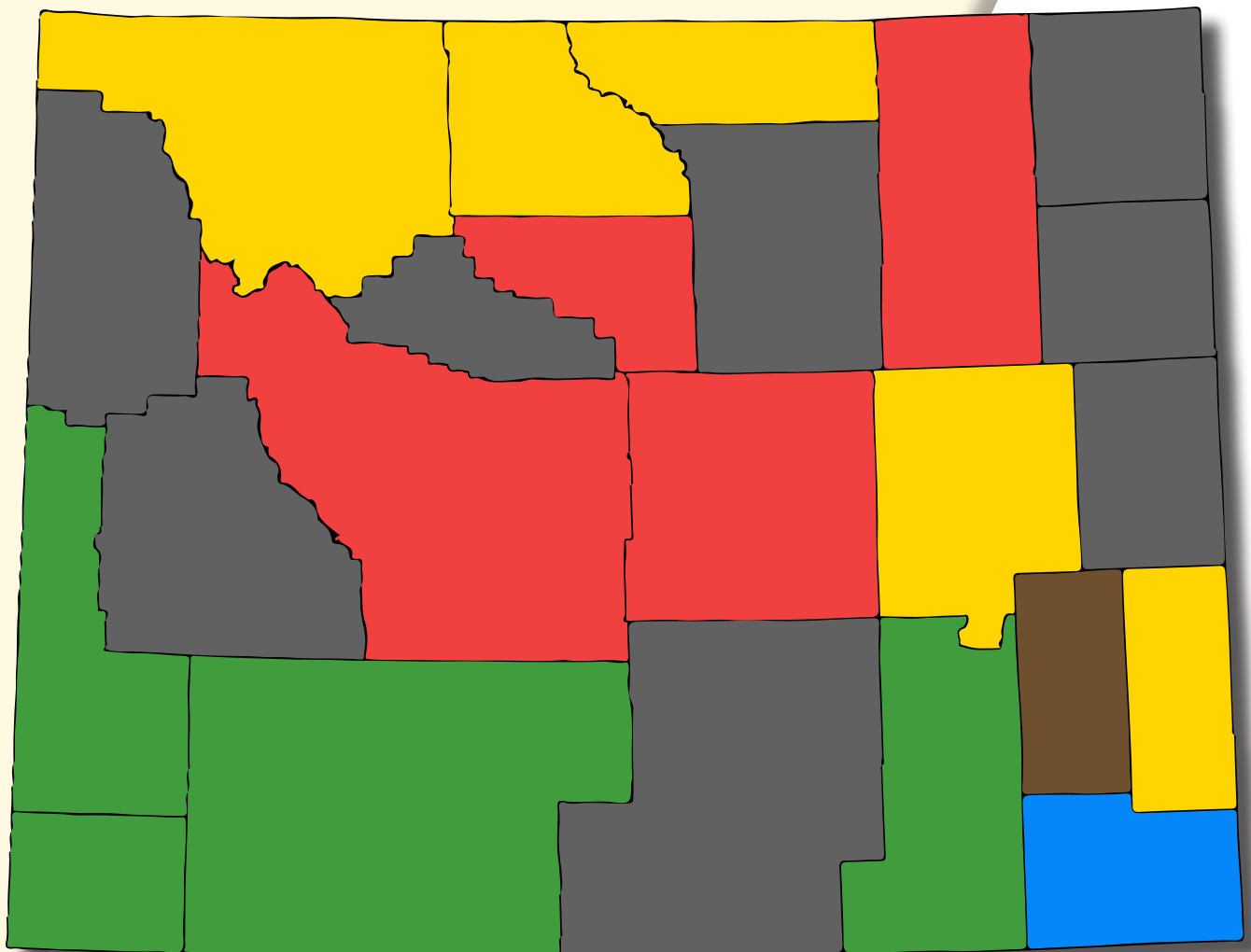
members live in 23 Wyoming Counties 31 States

WYOMING AIR NATIONAL GUARD

members live in 19 Wyoming Counties 38 States

\$114.37 Million budget

\$105.2m Federal **\$9.17m** State



WYOMING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD | CHEYENNE

Wyoming Army National Guard | Cheyenne
 Wyoming Army National Guard - BG Brian Nesvik, CCWO5 Doug Drost, SCSM Harold Pafford
 Joint Force Headquarters - MAJ Paul Kanish, 1SG Daryl Jackson
 Wyoming Medical Detachment - COL Marshall Kohr, 1SG Peter Slinden
 84th Civil Support Team - LTC Jonathan Seelye, 1SG Aaron Benson
 115th Field Artillery Brigade - COL Kent Porter, CSM Thad Ehde
 148th Signal Company - CPT Paul Ortega, 1SG James Haight
 Recruiting and Retention Battalion - LTC Amir 'Mike' Pezeshki, CSM Matthew Adams, 1SG Edmundo Herrera
 G Company, 1st Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment - MAJ Eric Becker, 1SG Shawn Hauf

960TH BRIGADE SUPPORT BATTALION | SHERIDAN (HQ), LOVELL, POWELL, DOUGLAS, TORRINGTON

LTC Robert Rickgauer (battalion), CPT George Weiser (company), CSM Douglas Swingholm, 1SG David Reynolds
 920th Forward Support Company - CPT Matthew Ryan, 1SG James Swingholm

94TH TROOP COMMAND | LARAMIE (HQ), ROCK SPRINGS, WHEATLAND, EVANSTON, AFTON

LTC Marko Rubich (battalion), CPT Trevor Gaylord (company), CSM Lindsay Schmidt
 133rd Engineer Company - CPT Eric Jacobs, 1SG Glenn Worley
 197th Public Affairs Detachment - CPT Craig Heilig
 67th Army Band - WO1 Brett White, 1SG Charles Olivas
 C Company, 2nd Battalion, 297th Infantry Regiment - CPT Spencer Jones, 1SG Curtis Jacobs

CAMP GUERNSEY TRAINING CENTER | GUERNSEY

COL Loren Thomson, MAJ Christina Bullington, 1SG James Williams
 213th Regiment - COL Jakob Norman (regiment), LTC Liann Brennenman (battalion), CSM Michael Laird, 1SG Jason Cox

2-300TH FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT | CASPER (HQ), GILLETTE, LANDER

LTC Robert Lejuene (battalion), CPT August Wilson (battery), CSM Jonathan Gillespie, 1SG Michael Clancy
 A Battery, 2-300th - CPT Luke Meyer, 1SG Paul Bennick
 B Battery, 2-300th - CPT Timothy Tierney, 1SG Joshua Phillips

WYOMING AIR NATIONAL GUARD | CHEYENNE

Wyoming Air National Guard - Col Paul Lyman, CMSgt Joshua Moore
 153rd Airlift Wing - Col Barry Deibert, CMSgt Darren Nogle, SMSgt David Sutter
 153rd Comptroller Flight - Lt Col Freddie McMillan
 153rd Operations Group - Col Jeremy Schaad, CMSgt Sarah Brewster
 187th Airlift Squadron - Lt Col Ryan Scofield
 187th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron - Lt Col Richard Cummings, CMSgt Theresa Sheheen, MSgt John Bayudanstegen
 153rd Operations Support Squadron - Lt Col Jeremy Burton, SMSgt Marshall Davis, SMSgt Robert Merrill
 243rd Air Traffic Control Squadron - Capt Daniel Hochhalter, CMSgt Jerry Taper, MSgt John Cox
 153rd Maintenance Group - Col Gary Monroe, CMSgt Svend Larsen, 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 John Moritz, CMSgt Paul Parsons, MSgt Jacqueline Carlson
 153rd Maintenance Operations Flight - Capt Joshua Eveslage, CMSgt Christopher Carlson
 153rd Mission Support Group - Col Holly Shenefelt, CMSgt Anna Gallegos, MSgt Amy Espedido
 153rd Logistics Readiness Squadron - Lt Col Kristina Tweedy, CMSgt Brian Devine, CMSgt Jesse Johnson
 153rd Civil Engineer Squadron - Lt Col Matthew Sturtevant, CMSgt Erik Smith
 153rd Force Support Squadron - Lt Col Jeremy Sparks, CMSgt Denise Hondel
 153rd Security Forces Squadron - Capt Terrance Bell, CMSgt Douglas Rhodes, MSgt James Brown
 153rd Communications Flight - Capt Walter Wilson, CMSgt Jennifer Lovering
 253rd Command & Control Group - Lt Col Jason Allen, CMSgt Samuel Carpenter, MSgt Mary Whitney
 153rd Command & Control Squadron - Maj Tonja Moon
 253rd Support Squadron - Lt Col Wendy Allison
 253rd Security Forces Squadron - Capt Jeffrey Castaneda, CMSgt Joshua Fitch
 153rd Medical Group - Col Daniel Perala, MSgt Ashley Meyer



INTERVIEW WITH STAFF SGT. KARI BRAFFORD

CELEBRATING NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

11.19.2020 | BY MSGT JACQUELINE MARSHALL PHOTO (L) SMSGT ROB TRUBIA

The Wyoming National Guard is celebrating National American Indian Heritage Month by paying tribute to the culture and heritage of these remarkable Americans who deeply enrich the quality and character of our Nation.

For this month's observance, I spoke with Staff Sgt. Kari Brafford, a Human Resources Specialist, who has served 10-years in the Wyoming Army National Guard. Throughout her career, she has held the position of State Master Fitness Trainer and is currently the Training non-commissioned officer (NCO) for Joint Force Headquarters in Cheyenne, Wyo.

Brafford is a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe in Pine Ridge, South Dakota. She explains what this month means to her and how her Native American heritage has played a role in serving.

Q: What does National American Indian Heritage Month mean to you?

It means the celebration of people that helped us evolve into who we are today. Many of the foods we eat and the medicines and remedies we use were introduced by American Indians. Many of our highways that establish our routes today follow an Indian trail. Our literature and our arts draw upon Indian themes and wisdom. Countless American Indians have served in our Armed Forces and have fought valiantly for our country.

Q: Do you know about your family history?

Yes! I have a lot of family history here in Fort Laramie, Wyo. where I currently live. My ancestors and family were the first Native American people to work with the settlers as they came through.

They were also part of the many treaties and agreements that we read about today in history, such as the Treaty of Fort Laramie or the Sioux Treaty of 1868. I am also the great-granddaughter of Chief Ste-

phen Standing Bear. He was an Oglala Sioux tribe Chief, as well as a famous actor in the Wild West Buffalo Bill show.

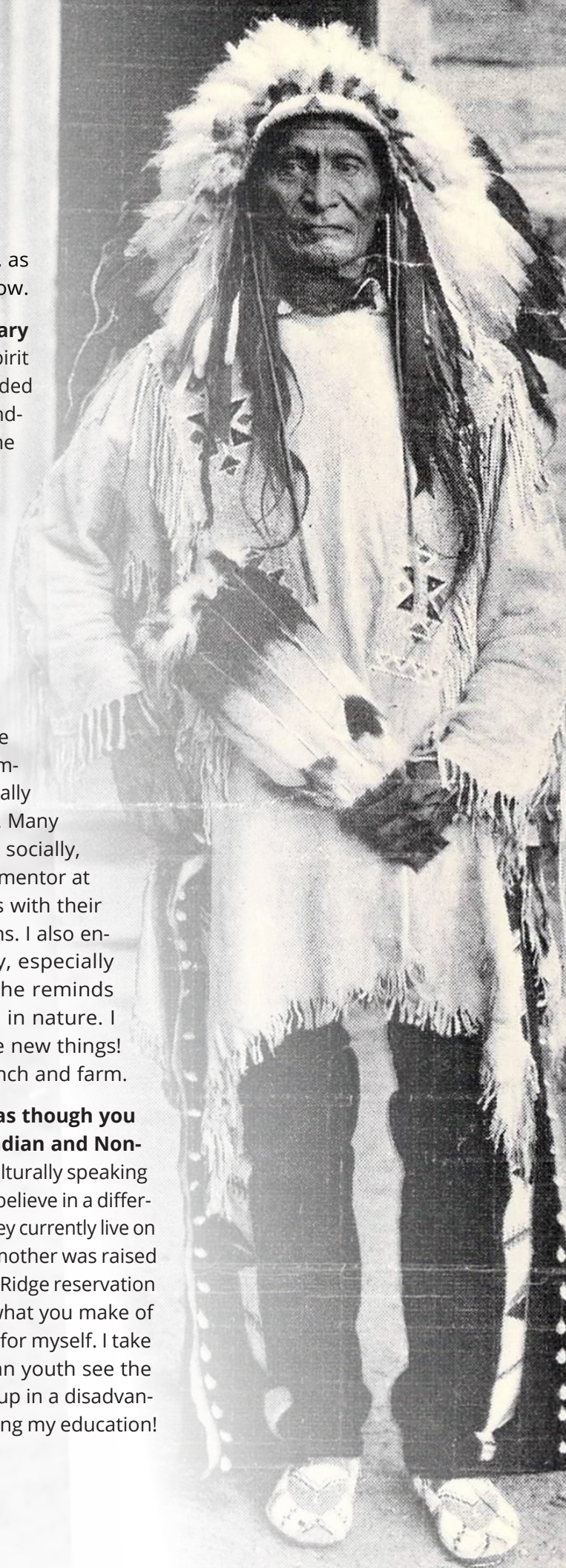
Q: How has your heritage played a role in your military service? The Akicita is the Lakota word for warrior. That spirit has been passed to me from my ancestors. It has always guided me to be brave. Native Americans have a great understanding of defending one's land and that inherent belief led me to my military career. I feel that Native Americans play an important role in the military as they serve at a higher rate of 19% compared to 14% of all other ethnicities. No matter the conflict, American Indian men and women continue to risk their lives for the very government that once tried to eradicate their way of life. That also says a lot about their character and integrity. I hope to continue to be a role model for all Native American people and the Army has provided me a great opportunity to do so.

Q: What do you do in the civilian world? I am a part-time college Business Instructor with NICC (Nebraska Indian Community College) out of Macy, NE. I took this position specifically because I get to "give back" to my people. Many of my students are disadvantaged socially, economically, and financially. I mentor at the college to help students with their career and education paths. I also enjoy time with my family, especially my new grandchild. She reminds me that life is simple in nature. I love to travel and see new things! I also work on the ranch and farm.

Q: Do you ever feel as though you live in two worlds, Indian and Non-Indian?

I do feel that culturally speaking Native American people believe in a different way of life than what they currently live on the reservations. My grandmother was raised in a catholic school on the Pine Ridge reservation and always told me that "Life is what you make of it." She inspired me to demand better for myself. I take

a personal interest in helping Native American youth see the advantage of education to make their lives better. I grew up in a disadvantaged world and made it to where I am today with furthering my education!



SOLDIER HELPS CATCH THE BAD GUYS

03.16.2020 | STORY BY CPL KRISTINA KRANZ

You can tell that Sgt. 1st Class Sarah Spieker loves her job. The smile on her face when she talks about her life in the military and working as an intelligence analyst for the counterdrug program is unmistakable. She's assigned to the Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) south enforcement team. The job of an intelligence analyst is to assist law enforcement partners with investigations involving drugs, and if it ever arrives, terroristic activities.

Spieker was born in South Dakota and moved to Wyoming when she was in middle school. Her family owns a ranch and she attributes working on the ranch as being the reason she was able to transition to the military so easily.

"Growing up on a ranch," she explains, "I give it full credit for my work ethic. Above all else."

Spieker always considered joining the military, and wanted to join the Air Force, but her dad wanted her to try college and get a degree first. She enrolled at Casper College, and began earning her degree towards teaching high school history.

It was when she was sitting in college, after having changed her major a couple of times, that a friend of hers started talking military with her. An acquaintance had

just become a recruiter for the Army Guard, so when her friend asked to join with her, she said, ***"Heck yeah."*** Spieker enlisted as an 89B, or Ammunition Specialist, and 45 days later she was off to Fort Jackson for basic training.

"It was a good experience," she says, "and I'll never forget the gas chamber."

After returning from basic training, Spieker began her career managing ammunition for her unit out of Guernsey.

Shortly after she volunteered to deploy with the 133rd engineering company to Bahrain, and worked security forces as a team leader. Herself and one other female non-commissioned officer were promoted while there. The deployment lasted 9 months.

"It was a great experience and I'm super glad I did it."

After her deployment, Spieker transferred to Sheridan, where she saw a job opening for counterdrug and decided to apply for

it. She worked with the northeastern team for 2 years, and after transferring to Cheyenne, is now with the southern team.

Recently, she's been busy assisting law enforcement in a historic case for Wyoming. In January, a California man was convicted of possession with intent to distribute controlled substances. Last May, a highway patrol officer pulled the man over in Laramie County, and ended up finding nearly

60 pounds of drugs that consisted of methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine and the synthetic opioid fentanyl. It was her work assisting with digital forensics that led to a guilty verdict.

She says she can't imagine doing anything else.

"Being able to work in our community in a National Guard capacity, helping law enforcement," She goes on to say, "I love it. I love the guard. I love all of the opportunities I've been given through the guard. More importantly, working in counterdrug is something I never imagined I would do."



DEDICATION CEREMONY FOR THE LT. GEN. R. L. ESMAY EDUCATION CENTER

07.15.2020 | PHOTOS BY CPL KRISTINA KRANZ



Wyoming Sen. Mike Enzi and Dr. John Esmay cut the ribbon at the dedication ceremony of the Lt. Gen. R. L. Esmay Education Center at Camp Guernsey on July 15. (TOP)

Retired Lt. Col. (Dr.) John Esmay delivers comments at the dedication ceremony of the Lt. Gen. R. L. Esmay Education Center at Camp Guernsey on July 15. Dr. Esmay is the son of Lt. Gen. R. L. Esmay, who served half a century for the State of Wyoming and the Wyoming National Guard. (RIGHT)



"Wyoming's Own" 67th Army band plays at the dedication ceremony of the Lt. Gen. R. L. Esmay Education Center at Camp Guernsey on July 15, 2020. Esmay served half a century for the State of Wyoming and the Wyoming National Guard.

IS THIS THE BEST JOB IN THE AIR GUARD?

02.06.2020 | STORY BY MSGT MICHELLE HUFF, PHOTOS BY TSGT JON ALDERMAN

Every aircrew position thinks that their job is the best job in the Air Force. However, the tip of the proverbial spear is only as good as the hand that throws it. In the case of the C-130 Hercules, the hand is that of the loadmaster.

When asked to describe what a loadmaster does, Master Sgt. Reed Scott replied with, ***“What does the airplane do?”*** For if you are asking what a loadmaster does you are also asking what a C-130 Hercules is capable of. Scott adds, ***“If it fits in the back of the airplane, we can move it.”***

Scott has been a loadmas-

ter with the Wyoming Air National Guard since 2002. A

typical day for a loadmaster starts long before that of a pilot, navigator or flight engineer. They are often the first to arrive and the last to leave. Whether it

be installing rollers on the floor for pallets of cargo or preparing static

lines for paratroop jumpers, the

loadmasters perform the manual labor necessary for tactical airlift. They have earned the name “sweaties,” a term of endearment, for good reason. In flight, they share the responsibility of handling emergencies and ensuring critical aircraft systems are operating properly and often do so under austere conditions. Anyone who has flown on a C-130 knows that the back of the aircraft can be brutally cold while the front is sickeningly hot. The motion of the aircraft is significantly pronounced in the

back and can sometimes make it difficult to stand up, let alone walk around and perform critical tasks like opening the paratroop doors in flight or pulling in deployment bags from a container delivery system airdrop.

The C-130 is separated into two major areas: the flight deck and the cargo compartment. A bulkhead at flight station 245 creates a physical barrier between the loadmasters and the rest of the crew, which adds a dimension of complexity for a crew-oriented aircraft. Loadmasters must have a

heightened sense of situational awareness for that reason. A small change in a pi-

lot’s tone of voice or even complete

silence in the cockpit is enough

to perk the ears of a seasoned loadmaster. However, while

they are not able to see what is happening in the front of

the airplane, they are the eyes and ears in the back and the

pivot point of the Hercules in action. Wyoming Air National

Guard C-130s have been to every state and every corner

of the globe. We have hauled everything from Humvees and

rubber boats to medical evacuees and Navy Seals. From spring to fall each

year, the fleet sits on standby to support

Modular Airborne Fire Fighting (MAFFS) in the battle against wildland forest fires.

Loadmasters are the first people a refugee sees when they enter the cargo compartment of the C-130 and the last person a jumper sees when they exit. No matter the mission or destination, the mighty Hercules stands alone as a leader in tactical airlift. Its success and longevity is due to the mission for which it is tasked and it is directly tied to the people who load and unload the airplane. Without them, there is no mission.



PICTURED (L) MSGT REED SCOTT (R) TSGT DYLAN STROM



RESTORING A PIECE OF HISTORY

06.22.2020 | STORY & PHOTOS BY CPL KRISTINA KRANZ



History teaches us where we come from. It can also tell us where we're going. Many people may not realize that the Wyoming National Guard had a significant role in the Korean War. According to 'Cowboy Cannoneers in the Korean War,' the Wyoming National Guard's 300th Armored Field Artillery Battalion (AFA) became one of the most highly decorated Wyoming units to serve in any war.

The equipment that enabled the 300th AFA to accomplish such a feat, was the Priest M-7 Howitzer. Manufactured during World War II, it was nicknamed the Priest because of its pulpit shaped machine gun ring. These M-7s were still being utilized in 1950, at the start of the Korean War.

The 300th AFA had just finished their annual training at Camp Carson, Colo., when North Korea invaded South Korea. The unit was called up in August of 1950 and they shortly found themselves training for war at Ft. Lewis, Wash.

It was from there that they sailed to Korea. They fought until the war ended on July 27, 1953.

A piece of that history now sits for all to view in front of Camp Guernsey's Regional Training Institute in Camp Guernsey, Wyo. Visitors can walk right up to it, touch it, and get a sense of awe knowing it was involved in a war that Wyoming Soldiers were part of.

The M-7 was restored by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Brian Parrish, who was assigned to the project.

"I can only imagine what those Wyoming Soldiers went through, were exposed to, in those types of environments, working out of a piece of equipment like that," Parrish says, "It really helps value the evolution of the equipment that we have now. Those Soldiers paved the way



for us to thrive. Their endurance has helped us be the stronger, more efficient units that we are now."

Parrish is a mechanic who works with the Combined Support Maintenance Shop at Camp Guernsey, Wyo., maintaining military vehicles so they are mission ready. He has also restored several other historical military vehicles, one of which sits in front of the National Guard Museum in Cheyenne, Wyo.

Parrish spent two solid weeks scraping the M-7 by hand in order to clean it to a point where it could be repainted. He didn't want to take

the risk that the original paint might

be lead-based, so sand-blasting the vehicle was not an option. After that, he put on four coats of direct to metal paint in order to ensure the end result was going to last for a long period of time.

"I wanted to create the best representation that I could of our history," he says.

For Parrish, the project was not easy. He hinted that there was a lot of sweat, and maybe a little blood that went into it. ***"I feel proud to be part of this project. I was glad to do it."*** He goes on to say, ***"It's a reflection and a representation of the history of the Wyoming Guard."***





WINGS ACROSS WYOMING

05.15.2020 | Salute to healthcare heroes

"We salute all those, both around the state of Wyoming and across the nation who have sacrificed so much to serve on the frontlines of this pandemic, it's truly an honor for the men and women of the Wyoming Air National Guard to provide a 'thank you' to the first responders, medical professionals, and essential personnel providing support at this time." - Col. Justin Walrath, 153rd Airlift Wing commander

The aerial demonstration was part of Operation American Resolve, a nationwide salute to all those supporting the COVID-19 response effort.



A C-130 Hercules from the 153rd Airlift Wing, Wyoming Air National Guard, flies over the state of Wyoming in appreciation for essential personnel on the front lines of COVID-19 on May 15, 2020. The flight was comprised of 2 C-130 Hercules aircraft and the route included 35 hospitals and clinics throughout the state with only two of those being diverted due to inclement weather. (U.S. Air National Guard photos by Tech. Sgt. Jon Alderman)



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 2,896 soldiers and airmen in the Wyoming National Guard by the end of fiscal year 21."

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



CONTACT AN ARMY GUARD RECRUITER

1-800-464-8273  WYOMINGARMYNATIONALGUARDRECRUITING

FY21 ARMY STRENGTH GOAL: 1,600



“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 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.

“We also had an incredible year as we focused on our number one priority: strength. The Wyoming Army National Guard exceeded end strength goals and the Wyoming Air National Guard had a record number of accessions. We aren’t able to fulfill our missions without our most important asset: our people.”

- Major General Gregory Porter

CONTACT AN AIR GUARD RECRUITER

307-772-6333  153AWRECRUITING

FY21 AIR STRENGTH GOAL: 1,296

WYOMING
**AIR NATIONAL
GUARD**

#FIND YOUR WINGS

08.09.2020 | STORY BY SRA LEE MURPHY

Most people have a certain image when you bring up the military. We think of planes, camouflage, sweat, and mud. Long nights of patrol or early morning workout sessions that leave you wishing you were on the couch watching television. We think of far-away places, and missing home.

What most of us don't think about are ... beauty pageant winners? Yet this is precisely the experience of Capt. Randi Carpenter, a navigator attached to the 187th Airlift Squadron here at the 153rd Airlift Wing here in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Carpenter is the current

Mrs. Wyoming American, a pageant for married women in Wyoming, and not only represents the wing, but also will represent the married women of the state of Wyoming in the next Mrs. American 2020 pageant.

Carpenter found the event by chance, as an outlet from the stress of being a new mom. She was taken aback by the community that she discovered, it was a place of empowerment and solidarity among Wyoming women, and it has since become a platform that she strongly supports since winning the top spot last year. Carpenter uses her new platform to spread a message of women of all ages chasing their dreams to fly, and

expressing their voices in the community with her social media handle, #FindYourWings. We put the spotlight on Carpenter today, highlighting her achievements in and outside the unit, and look forward to seeing all she will do in the future as the new Mrs. Wyoming American.



2020

OF THE YEAR

COMPANY GRADE OFFICER

1LT Greyson Buckingham

WARRANT OFFICER

WO1 Brady Sheridan

NCO

SSG Joshua Barry

SOLDIER

SGT Michael Lechner

ARMY

COMPANY GRADE OFFICER

1LT Jeremiah Singleton

FIRST SERGEANT

MSgt John L. Bayudan-Stegen

SNCO

MSgt Benjamin Hebert

NCO

MSgt Adam Bennett

AIRMAN

SrA Harrison Linde

HONOR GUARD

MSgt Sierra Stevens

AIR

STATE EMPLOYEE

1st Quarter

Matt Nix, HRO

2nd Quarter

Cristina Donovan, HRO

3rd Quarter

Mike Walker, 153d CES

4th Quarter

Rick Cruz, 153d CES

STATE EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Rick Cruz, 153d CES



WYOMING NATIONAL GUARD
LEADERSHIP



Gov. Mark Gordan
The Commander & Chief



Maj. Gen. Gregory C. Porter
The Adjutant General



Brig. Gen. Gene Hughes
Chief of Staff ~ Air



Col. Fred Nasredine
Chief of staff ~ Army



Col. Dave Herder
Chief of the Joint Staff



Command Sgt Maj.
Harold Pafford
*State Command
Sergeant Major*



Chief Master Sgt.
Joshua Moore
*State Command Chief
Master Sergeant*



Mr. Doug Shape
*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. Barry Deibert
153rd Airlift Wing Commander



Col. Jason Salsgiver
U.S. Property & Fiscal Officer



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Doug Drast
State Command Chief Warrant Officer



Mrs. Germaletta Brown
STARBASE Academy Director



Mr. William Moore
*Wyoming Cowboy Challenge
Academy Director*



Col. Rick Fawcett
*Civil Air Patrol, Wyoming
Wing Commander*

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