

THE GUARDIAN

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A Publication of the Wyoming Air National Guard

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On the cover



US Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Natalie Stanley

Capt. Nathan Rieber, 30th Airlift Squadron, spends time with his wife and two children minutes before he is set to deploy, Nov. 15, at the Wyoming Air National Guard base. The 30 AS sent out around 40 deployers, including one Wyoming Air National Guard member, and will be gone into 2012.

Remember those who are deployed this holiday season and if you plan on sending a care package note the postal deadlines on page 10.

Please send *Guardian* submissions by COB the second Monday after UTA to:

153.aw.pa@ang.af.mil

Submissions that are not received by this date cannot be guaranteed inclusion.

Please feel free to submit article ideas, comments or corrections.



The Guardian is the unofficial newspaper published by the 153rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office for the members of the Wyoming Air National Guard. The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of the United States Air Force, the Wyoming Military Department or the Wyoming Air National Guard.

Commanders Corner

by Col. Paul Lyman

vice commander



“Your current job is the most important one that you’ll ever have.”

Col. Paul Lyman

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! I’ve chosen to use my time in the Commanders Corner to talk about Force Development. What is that, you ask? Force Development is simply growing the future leaders of the 153rd Airlift Wing, the Air National Guard, and the Air Force. The trend at the state, and nationally, is implementing “tools” that will formalize the Force Development process. These “tools” will hit the streets in the coming months and will very much assist commanders and Airmen. The reality, however, is that it all boils down to you. **YOU** are the most important part of Force Development and growing into the leader you want to become! With that in mind, I’d like to talk about “rules” I’ve tried to follow in my ANG and civilian career.

Rule 1: Your current job is the most important one that you’ll ever have. Focus on your primary responsibilities and be the expert in your field before you attempt to take on anything else. All too often I see individuals forget this basic step and overextend themselves with additional duties and projects they think are important. Excellence always wins out.

Rule 2: Seek Lemons and Make Lemonade. After you master your primary duties, find those additional duties and projects that nobody wants, and take them on. Some lemons include the POC for unit awards and decs, the holiday party, and the OAY Banquet. These duties aren’t fun but are important to the wing’s success. However, performance does matter. If you

do well you’re a hero and if you fail you’re a goat. Choose lemons wisely!

Rule 3: APD, (Attitude, Persistence, and Diplomacy). Attitude, see Master Sgt. Nate Cook! Persistence, if you first don’t succeed, well you know the rest. I think Col. Jerry Champlin interviewed nine times before being hired as a fulltime pilot and look where he is today. Never give up on your dreams. And finally Diplomacy, remember it’s not what you say but how and where you say it.

Rule 4: PME, higher education, and advanced courses matter (fill the squares). These things are important to your professional development and are often prerequisites to advancement. Most “normal” individuals hate following this painful rule. Skip this rule and the system will skip you.

Rule 5: C3 (Communicate, Communicate, Communicate). Most of us have a difficult time communicating our goals and dreams. Communicate your career goals, seek performance feedback, and be engaged in the process. The old line “No one ever told me that” is not an excuse. Find out what you do well and where you need to improve. This feedback can come from subordinates, peers, and supervisors alike. Remember you can’t fix what you don’t know is broke.

The bottom line is **YOU** play the biggest role in Force Development and **YOU** control your destiny. With that, have a safe, joyous holiday season and thanks for your service. I’m honored to serve with you, America’s finest Airmen. 🇺🇸

Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Michelle Scheel



A Purple Heart's journey

by Staff Sgt. Natalie Stanley
Public Affairs specialist

“It was bittersweet
for us.”

retired Tech. Sgt. Bruce Scheel

William L. Wood, like many men in his generation, left his home to serve his country during World War II. Wood, a gunner in the 39th Bomb Group, Crew 26, would not have chance to go back home to his pregnant wife or hold their baby in his arms. On April 28, 1945, Wood and his crew were flying a mission over the Pacific when a Japanese fighter rammed the right wing of his crew's B-29 tearing off 20 feet of the wing. The plane, with its 12 crew members, made its way toward land but never reached it. A Purple Heart medal awarded posthumously was the only item Wood's family had left.

More than 50 years later, Randy Brown, a school teacher from East Memorial Elementary School, Greeley, Colo., was helping tear down old buildings in Denver, Colo., when he made an unusual discovery in the walls of an old home. Brown had uncovered a box containing a Purple Heart with the inscription, “William L. Wood”. Not knowing what to do with his find, but knowing it was important,

Brown hung on to it for years before his teaching job put him in the path of someone who would know what to do with such a treasured item. Bruce Scheel, a retired technical sergeant, who became a teacher after 20 years of military service, was working at East Memorial in 2008, when Brown approached him with his story and the medal.

“It was just gorgeous,” said Mr. Scheel after seeing Wood's medal for the first time. “It had the ribbon, the medal, and a card from the Secretary of the Army, all in perfect shape.”

Scheel and his wife, Wyoming Air National Guard Senior Master Sgt. Michelle Scheel, immediately started looking everywhere for any living family members of Wood's. They searched the internet hoping to find any information that would help guide them in returning the medal to its rightful owners.

“I'm from a military family,” said Mr. Scheel, “so I know the importance of something like a Purple Heart to a family.”

Although the Scheels found



Wood's 39th Bomb Group, Crew 26. This photo is courtesy of Terry Rati-gan, nephew of F/O David P. Donahoo, the photo belonged to Teresa Donahoo, David's mother.

a couple of websites with listed information about Wood and his final mission, their search wasn't getting the results they'd hoped for. Wood's date of birth was unlisted and they could not locate his enlistment records.

In time, the Scheels moved away from the Colorado area to Indianapolis, Ind., bringing the medal with them and placing it in a display case in the living room of their new home, to continue to protect and keep it safe until the owners could be found.

Around August 2011, the Scheels had their neighbor, Ernest Dykes, over for dinner when he noticed the Purple Heart in the case.

"Dykes was very interested," Mr. Scheel said, "he had never seen anything like it before." Scheel told him the background of the medal and its journey up until now.

"You would not believe how my brother can find people," said Dykes to Mr. Scheel. "Why don't you give me the information that

you have and we'll see what he can find." So, Mr. Scheel gave him what he had, appreciative of the help.

In the middle of September, Scheel received an email from a man named Lee Wood who said his dad was William L. Wood and that he was born six months after his dad disappeared.

"The email gave me chills," said Mr. Scheel. "It said the last time Lee Wood saw his dad's medal was when he was around eight or nine years old, which would have been around 53 years ago."

"Wood told me his only guess would be his mother put the medal in the wall to protect it to make sure it wouldn't get lost and either died without telling anybody where it was or forgot about where it was," said Mr. Scheel.

Scheel and Wood were much closer than Scheel could have imagined, he discovered that Lee Wood now lived in Chicago, Ill., which was only a few hundred miles from the Scheel's new home.

Scheel and his wife traveled to Chicago, Ill., Oct. 22, 2011, to return the medal to Wood's only living family member.

"It is part of his heritage getting returned to him," said Mr. Scheel.

"It was exciting to give it back and a relief to have found Lee," Mr. Bruce Scheel. "It's back to a family that deserves to have it."

"It was an emotional day to see Mr. Wood recover something he hadn't seen for over 50 years," said Mr. Scheel, "but, also a bittersweet day for us because, we had started to feel we would never find the rightful owner."

Even though the journey is over and the medal is back to its rightful owners, Mr. Scheel said he will continue to use this experience as inspiration for instilling values in his students.

"I want these kids to grow up being respectful and taking care of this country so my grandkids and great grandkids have a great society to live in. "



Pictured from left to right are; Col. Arthur Wunder, director of communications and chief information officer for the ANG; Master Sgt. Christopher Opp, ROSC 5, Maj. Gen. Joseph M. Wells, director, J2/6, Intelligence and Communication, National Guard Bureau. Photo by Master Sgt. Terry Siegfried



Wyoming guardsmen honored at national level

by Capt. Eric Green

153rd Communications flight commander

Wyoming Air National Guard Master Sgt. Christopher Opp, was recognized as the Base Communications Cyberspace Special Mission Senior NCO of the Year at the annual Air National Guard Communications and Information Awards Banquet,

in Orlando, FL. Opp distinguished himself as an instrumental member of the Regional Operating Security Center (ROSC) Region 5. He is part of the ROSC 5 team that provides network support to 15 flying wings across the ANG.

Outstanding Airmen of the Fourth Quarter 2011



Senior Airman Kyle MacCullough
30th Airlift Squadron



Staff Sgt. Ken Cerreta
30th Airlift Squadron



Master Sgt. William Snell
153rd Maintenance Squadron

The 153rd Airlift Wing is calling all artists

*Put your artistic abilities to work by redesigning the wing
coin.*

- *submit your design to Public Affairs by the end of Jan.
drill- all submissions welcome, whether you are a graph-
ics genius or prefer pencil and paper*
 - *top three designs will be chosen*
- *winner out of top three will have his/her design
featured as the new wing coin*

email submissions to 153aw.pa@ang.af.mil attention wing coin design



Pictured from left to right; Staff Sgt. Carey West, Airmen 1st Class Jeffery Castaneda, Senior Airmen Daniel Simonson, Senior Airmen Dominick Cruz, Tech. Sgt. Michele Lyster, Staff Sgt. Kenneth Paul, Airmen 1st Class Amber Adams, Master Sgt. Troy Woolhether, Staff Sgt. Scott O'Malley, Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Yack, Staff Sgt. Adam Coulon, Staff Sgt. Gregory Wardle, Staff Sgt. Christopher Gibbs.

153rd Security Forces Squadron return from training in Jordan

by Staff Sgt Natalie Stanley
Public Affairs specialist

Thirteen members of the Wyoming Air National Guard's, 153rd Security Forces Squadron joined forces with members from the New Jersey Air National Guard and troops from Hill Air Force Base in a multi-

national exercise at Al Shaheed Muwaffaq Salti Air Base, Al Azaraq, Jordan between Oct. 4 and Nov. 5.

"This was great trip," said Master Sgt. Troy Woolhether, 153 SFS unit training manager. "We were able to develop job skill knowledge



Pictures by Master Sgt. Troy Woolhether and Tech. Sgt. Michele Lyster.



for some of our new troops and participate in multinational and cultural exchanges.”

According to Woolhether, the Wyoming team provided physical security for the participating U.S. forces, six F-16’s, and all the munitions used for the exercise.

The event, hosted by Jordan’s Ministry of Defense, centered on the F-16 Falcon and included personnel from the United States, Jordan, and Turkey.

Some areas of competition during the event were precision bombing, munitions loading, aircraft generation and recovery, and precision aerial maneuvers, Woolhether said.

In terms of the security mission Woolhether said, “Although, this was an exercise at heart, it tested real world, war time skills.”

The 153 SFS were also tasked with manning the entry control points and vehicle search area for the U.S. compound.

The members of the Wyo. team also took part in cultural events, such as an international dinner where each of the participating countries were responsible for setting up a buffet line of their traditional dishes. “The Americans provided the traditional hotdogs and hamburgers,” said Woolhether.

With the team returned safely home Woolhether said, “The most import part of the trip was that there were zero security incidents.”

December's Commanders Call

When: Dec. 3

Where: Civic Center

Transportation Available

There will be busses leaving from in front of building 16, starting at 0730 and dropping off in front of the Civic Center for your convenience.

Busses will return starting immediately after the end of Commanders Call.

2101 O'Neil Avenue



153d Airlift Wing
2011 Holiday Party

**Saturday
3 December**
Holiday Inn, Cheyenne

Cocktails: 1700 hours
Dinner: 1800 hours

Tickets: Officers \$20/person
Enlisted \$15/person

POC: 2nd Lt Anthony C. Munoz
772-6149

Holiday Dates For Military Mail

Are you planning on mailing a deployed member a gift by Dec. 25? Here are some deadlines you need to know about.


Express mail military service to all APO/FPO/DPO addresses must be sent by Dec. 17.

For more deadlines see <https://www.usps.com/shippingdates/welcome.htm>

A Request and Reminder from the 153rd Security Forces Squadron


Winter weather has set in, and with it brings the typical winter elements. With this in mind we request everyone assist in a safe and smooth entrance to the base by ensuring your windshields are clear of frost and snow, especially if they cover your DOD decals. This will help the security officers help you with a smooth base entrance.

Also, with the end of the year upon us, many vehicles will have DOD decals expiring on 31 Dec. If yours is about to expire, please stop by Pass and Registration to update them.



Employment at the Wyoming Military Department


Visit




The Wyoming Military Department offers a wide variety of employment opportunities around the state for Active Guard and Reserve personnel, federal government employees and state government personnel.

Full-time Employment

Links to full time employment opportunities







Wyoming Seven Seals Jobs Coordinator

Carly J. York
carly.j.york@us.army.mil
 307-772-5055

To request the assistance of our jobs coordinator please fill out this form [PDF](#) and return to [Carly York](#)

Follow Us

Traditional Positions at the Wyoming Military Department

The Wyoming Military Department offers a wide variety of employment opportunities around the state for Active Guard and Reserve personnel, federal government employees and state government personnel.

Opportunities for **Army National Guard traditional positions** are not listed below:

MOS	Job Title	Closing Date
91L20	Construction Equipment Repairer E-5	21 NOV 11
Immaterial	OCS Commander/Senior TAC Officer O-4	28 NOV 11
Immaterial	Plans & Policy Branch Chief O-5	28 NOV 11
Immaterial	S-3, Operations Officer O-5	28 NOV 11
Immaterial	J-7, Director Joint Force Development O-5	17 DEC 11
Immaterial	Mob Readiness Division Chief O-5	17 DEC 11

<http://wyomilitary.wyo.gov>

We Salute

Promotions

Airman 1st Class Cody A. Fowler
Airman 1st Class Janine N. Payne
Senior Airman Kyle Lucas
Senior Airman Heidi L. Valdez

Retirements

Lt. Col. Robert Fryer
Lt. Col. James Kuhns
Staff Sgt. Darren Johnson

Wyoming Air National Guard
217 Dell Range Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82009