



THE GUARDIAN



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A Publication of the Wyoming Air National Guard

The Guardian Staff

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photo by Capt. Pedro Rampolla

Santa visits with one of his elves, while Mrs. Clause greets one of the children during the 153rd Airmen and Family Readiness program Annual Kids Christmas party, Dec. 10 at the Wyoming Air National Guard base. Families from across the wing came together for food, fun, and games, with Santa and his elves handing out presents to the children.

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. Stephen Rader

commander



“I’d like to thank everyone for making 2011 a great year for the 153rd.”

Col. Stephen Rader

Happy New Year!

I sincerely hope that everyone enjoyed the holiday season and had the opportunity to spend time with friends and family. As we move into 2012 we will face new challenges. The drawdown of forces in the Middle East has already had an effect on us as our 30 AS deployment was cut short. They will most likely be out the door again in March to a new location. Our own AEF deployment in July will no doubt be affected as well. Changes in numbers of personnel and possibly location will probably happen. Stay flexible as we work through the multitude of changes. In addition, the Wing received the funds for the renovation of Building 16.


That’s great news for the long term, but it will present us with at least two years of cramped working conditions as we disburse the occupants of Bldg. 16 into the rest of our available space. We will even have a few of our functions operating out of the old HQ building on Bishop Boulevard. As we progress through 2012, the Wing will also continue preparations for our ORI in July 2013. We have a lot of new personnel who have joined us since the last ORI, and we have also had a good number of changes in the critical leadership positions. The practice and training will be essential for our success.

The other challenge for the New Year is for the Wing to continue to build on our strength. Currently we sit at about 92 percent of our authorized manning. We have come a long way from 10 years ago when we were sitting at 82 percent, but we need to keep our numbers strong to prevent losing missions or manpower. It would not surprise me to see two fewer, if not more, ANG C-130 units

in the next couple of years. I think the 153rd Airlift Wing is perfectly situated to avoid being one of those units, and to avoid many of the big cuts that are coming. The key is for you not worry about the things that you cannot control. Instead, work hard to make the things that you can control better. When it comes to our unit strength, you can help by actively referring people who can join our ranks to our recruiting staff. Everyone needs to be a recruiter.

While I’m on the subject of unit strength, I’d like to mention another situation that affects our numbers. I am seeing an increase in requests for early releases. These are for a variety of reasons; moving out of the area, hardship, pregnancy, etc. The thing I’d like everyone to remember is that each of us signs a contract when we first join the unit, or when we re-enlist or extend. Unlike professional sports, these contracts aren’t up for renegotiation every year. I want everyone to understand that except in cases of extreme hardship, I do not intend to release people from their contracts early. I will entertain requests for transfer to another unit, or to an IMA position to allow personnel a better way to serve out their commitment. All personnel should seriously consider their current and expected future personal situations prior to deciding upon what length of commitment they are going to choose. If you don’t know what options are available to you, please ask.

I’d like to thank everyone for making 2011 a great year for the 153rd. Let’s all do what we can to make 2012 even better. Even though we are **THE BEST**, there is always room for improvement. Have a great year!



Guidance on political activities



by Gen. Norton Schwartz
Air Force Chief of Staff

As the Nation prepares for the November 2012 Presidential elections, I encourage all Airmen- Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve, and civilian employees-to participate in our Nation's political process to the maximum permissible extent. It is important, however, that in doing so, we all comply with the rules that regulate the political activities of DoD personnel. These rules-rooted in U.S. law- are intended to strike the proper balance between a government employee's involvement in the political process while avoiding an improper appearance of official DoD endorsement of a particular political party, candidate, cause, or issue. These rules also prevent the misuse of one's Federal position in support of a particular political party, candidate, cause, or issue.

Prior to engaging in any activity related to the political process, all Airmen should be familiar with the rules prescribed by DoD Directive 1344.10, Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces on Active Duty, and as amplified in the 28 January 2008 SECDEF message DoD Public Affairs Policy Guidance concerning Political Campaigns and Elections, in order to ensure a full understanding of

the extent and limitations of appropriate involvement in the political process.

Specific prohibitions on political activities by DoD personnel may not be intuitive. For example, active duty personnel may not attend partisan political events in uniform, nor may they march or ride in a partisan parade, regardless of whether or not they are in uniform. Active duty personnel may display a political sign on their personally owned vehicle, but only if it is no larger than a traditional bumper sticker. Political signs may not be displayed from an on-base residence, even if the military housing development has been privatized. DoD employees may not distribute campaign literature in the Federal workplace, nor may they seek to influence the vote of any other DoD employee, except to encourage voting in general. Remember campaign activities on military installations are also strictly prohibited.

If you have any questions, ask for guidance from your local legal office, and obtain any required approvals prior to engaging in the activity. I encourage you to vote and to exercise your civic rights responsibly. Thank you for your continued service to this great Nation.

“I encourage you to vote and exercise your civic rights responsibly.”

Gen. Norton Schwartz



Two Wing officers re-assigned

Col. Steve Rader has re-assigned two officers into key 153rd Airlift Wing positions.

Maj. Michael Poynter has served well as the 153rd Airlift Wing/Inspector General for more than three years and, as a result, Rader has approved Poynter's re-assignment to become the 153rd Mission Support Group deputy commander,

a traditional position.

Wing inspector generals generally serve for a period of three years and are then re-assigned according to current guidance. The IG is a critical position assisting the Wing commander with issues involving the force.

After considering the needs of the Wing in an IG, Rader selected

Lt. Col. Kristina Tweedy, current 153rd Security Forces Squadron commander, to be the next 153 AW/IG.

Both moves are effective March 1. Tweedy's current traditional position will be advertised in the near future. Please welcome both officers as they assume their new positions in the Wing.



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.

A look back at 2011

Change of Command

Col. Stephen E. Rader (left) assumes command of the 153rd Airlift Wing, Wyoming Air National Guard, July 9, 2011. Brig. Gen. Donald A. Haught (right), assistant adjutant general-air, Wyoming National Guard, was the presiding officer of the ceremony. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Paul Mann)



Wyoming's final Honor Flight



Members of the 153rd Airlift Wing show their gratitude to 89 World War II veterans going to D.C. as part of Wyoming's final honor flight, Oct. 11, 2011 at WyANG base, Cheyenne Wyo. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Natalie Stanley)



Another successful air show

Spectators view static displays with a C-5 Galaxy from the Tennessee Air National Guard's 164th Airlift Wing in view during the 2011 Wyoming Air National Guard show July 2011. (U.S. Air Force photo by 1st Lt. Rusty Ridley)



65th Anniversary

Members of the 153rd Airlift Wing and the Wyoming Air National Guard attend a milk-can dinner during the three day festivities that were part of the 65th Anniversary of the Cheyenne, Wyo. based unit. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. John Galvin)



Homecomings

Members of the 153rd Airlift Wing return home from a deployment May, 11 2011, at Cheyenne Regional Airport, Cheyenne Wyo. There have been many such homecomings over the past year at the Wyoming Air National Guard. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Paul Mann)

Here's your chance to strengthen your marriage this coming year with the Chapel's strong bonds marriage retreat

- The chapel will be presenting four marriage retreats, throughout 2012, with the first being planned for February in Loveland, Colo.
- There will be three Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage seminars and one communications based seminar called Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP).

For more information please contact the Chapel at 307-772-6061.

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 graphics 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



Maj. Michael Poynter with his dog team exit the starting chutes for the six-dog spring race at the Canines for Charity race, Casper Mountain Wyo. (photo by Joyce Jacobs)

Snow + dogs = a good time for all

by Maj. Michael Poynter
inspector general

Around five years ago, we were having a white Christmas and my daughters, Alexandra and Taylor, and I decided to try a little experiment. We decided to hook a harness up to our Siberian Husky and German Sheppard, attach a rope to the harness and a plastic kids sled to the other end. By mutual agreement between me and Alexandra, Taylor, who was in 4th grade at the time and the lightest, was the first to try out the sled. As we all ran down the hill in front of our



Airman 1st Class Alexandra Poynter in the staging area of the Canines for Charity Race at Casper Mountain, Wyo. (photo by Maj. Michael Poynter)

ranch home, our Siberian's eyes lit up and she began to bark for joy. We had a lot of fun out there that day and so began our fever to run dogs. We now own nine Huskies and two German Shep-

herds and live up in the mountains.

I have been racing now for three years with pure-bred Siberian Huskies. For training, I started out using an old cart for my team, but quickly realized

I needed an all terrain vehicle for the pre-season training, as it is much safer. I train with my leaders in the summer by bikejoring, which is where a harnessed dog or team of dogs attached to a tow-line, pull and run ahead of a cyclist.

Dogs on the race circuit vary, but I'm kind of a traditionalist and like to run Siberian Huskies. Huskies are the original sled dogs and are hearty breed that is genetically designed to run long distances with minimal food and water, but Alaskan Huskies are a little faster.

Continued on page 10...

Opportunity knocks...

You can make the difference!

If you have been seeking an exciting, fulfilling career opportunity and a path to having an immensely positive impact on the Wing and the future of the Air National Guard, now is the time for you! The 153rd Force Support Squadron, on behalf of the Wing commander, requests our best and brightest Technical Sergeants and Master Sergeants give due consideration to the traditional opportunity of becoming the NCOIC of the 153rd Airlift Wing student flight program.

The intent of the student flight is to welcome our new Airmen into the 153 AW by preparing and assisting them as they transition from civilian life to becoming uniformed service members as Airmen in the United States Air Force and the Wyoming Air National Guard. The role of the NCOIC of the student flight program is to motivate and train our new recruits toward becoming better prepared, high quality trainees before departure to BMT and technical school.

If you are a Technical Sergeant or Master Sergeant with exceptional communication skills, the ability to motivate personnel toward obtaining their goals and achieving higher standards, and have or want the experience of working with all levels of Airmen, then this is the position for you!

This is a traditional position, with a start date set for April 2012's UTA. You will have a draft curriculum provided (established via coordination with NGB), and guidance on all facets of training. You will have support from Wing leadership, various elements of the 153 FSS, as well as the recruiting and retention team participating as guest instructors.

This is NOT an AFSC specific duty assignment and does NOT require training at a formal technical school. All E-6 and E-7 personnel looking for a traditional position without traditional boundaries are welcome and encouraged to apply!

Please submit a cover letter and resume to Maj. Rachel Bennett by NLT COB, Feb. 5.


If you have questions about this position, please contact Maj. Rachel Bennett at 307-772-6320 for more information.

Snow cont...

Since the race season is in the middle of the school year, I compete in regional races. I do sprint-racing (about six to eight miles) primarily, but would like to do mid-distance (about 200 miles) if life takes me in a direction that makes that possible.

While many races are set up for competition, others are for charity. Every year, usually on Presidents Day weekend, mushers from all over the region meet on Casper Mountain, Wyo., to help raise money for The ARC foundation. My daughter, Airmen 1st Class Alexandra Poynter, has also participated in this charity race. How we fare in races is really dependent on the entries in any given race, along with skill and a little bit of luck.

I think what I enjoy most is just being out in the middle of nowhere, hearing the pads of the dogs touching down in the snow while you're running through a snow covered forest. Although, coming out of the starting chutes, at a race, going from zero to 25 miles per hour in about two seconds is quite a rush.



Prevention Treatment and Outreach
NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

addiction?


Is your family member struggling with

Do you feel concerned about them
and unsure of who to turn to for help?

The PTO program can meet with your family member and match them with free or low-cost treatment options in a supportive, caring, private environment.

We realize that the health and welfare of your family is your top priority. Help is always available to ensure that during times of deployment and other military requirements, your family is taken care of so you can focus on your mission.

Call
TSgt Hailey Atkinson today for an appointment!
Phone: (307) 772-5056
Email: hailey.c.atkinson@us.army.mil





<i>Announcement Number</i>	<i>Job Title</i>	<i>Closing Date</i>
12-004	Supervisory Aircraft Loadmaster Instructor GS-2185-11	Jan. 5, 2012
12-004A	Amendment-Supervisory Aircraft loadmaster Instructor	Jan. 18, 2012
12-A303	RF Transmission Systems Journeyman, E-5	Jan. 5, 2012
12-A303A	Amendment-RF Transmission Systems Journeymen	Jan. 5, 2012
12-A310	Security Forces Journeyman, E-5	Jan. 5, 2012
11-191	Airplane Flight Instr 04	Dec. 9, 2011
11-191A	Amendment-Airplane Flight Instr	Jan. 7, 2012
12-A308	Training Specialist, E-8	Jan. 10, 2012
12-006	Safety and Occupational Health Manager, GS-11	Jan, 12, 2012
12-012	Human Resources Assistant, GS-0203-07	Jan. 16, 2012
12-014	Aircraft Mechanic, WG-8852-10	Jan. 18, 2012
12-014A	Amendment-Aircraft Mechanic	Jan. 18, 2012
12-015	Supply Technician, GS-2005-07	Jan. 18, 2012
12-015A		
12-017	Aircraft Mechanic, WG-8852-12	Jan. 18, 2012
12-017A		
12-019	Supply Technician, GS-2005-07	Jan. 18, 2012
12-019A		

please visit link below for a detailed jobs listing
<http://wyomilitary.wyo.gov>

All applications must be submitted by the closing date listed on the advertisement to
 Master Sgt. Denise Hondel
 153 AW/FSS
 217 Dell Range Blvd.
 Cheyenne, WY 82009-3320
 307-772-6457

The Wyoming Military Department is an equal opportunity employer. Selection for all positions will be made without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor. This applies to ALL vacancies within the Wyoming Military Department.

Job announcements must be sent directly to FSS, not to the Public Affairs office. The format must include, Position Title, Grade, Officer/Enlisted (both), other special qualifications. The requested announcement may be sent to Master Sgt. Hondel, Tech. Sgt. Lopez, or Maj. Bennett for submission. Questions on posting job announcements may be directed to Maj. Rachel Bennett, 307-772-6320.

We Salute

Promotions

Staff Sgt. Brian E. Tater
Senior Airman Nicolas A. Silveira
Airman 1st Class Adam B. Bartholomew

Retirements

Lt. Col. John Santaniello
Master Sgt. Michael Hruby
Tech. Sgt. Luis Cruz
Tech. Sgt. Gilles Gohier
Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Malcom
Staff Sgt. Dean Christensen

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