



THE GUARDIAN



A Publication of the Wyoming Air National Guard

Visit us on the web: www.153aw.ang.af.mil

The Guardian Staff

Col. Stephen E. Rader
commander

Col. Paul Lyman
vice commander

Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Loftin
command chief

1st Lt. Rusty Ridley
public affairs officer

Master Sgt. Paul Mann
public affairs manager

Master Sgt. Cynthia Green
broadcast journalist

Staff Sgt. Natalie Stanley
public affairs specialist

Staff Sgt. Ann "Mike" Fitzgerald
still photographer

Staff Sgt. John Galvin
still photographer

Senior Airmen Cherron Vaden
broadcast journalist

Airman 1st Class Nichole Grady
public affairs specialist

Airman 1st Class Griffith Sea
knowledge operations manager

On the cover



US Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Natalie Stanley

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 Cheyenne Regional Airport, Cheyenne, Wyo. The honor flight program started in 2009 to honor those who served in World War II by escorting them to D.C., to experience firsthand the memorials standing in honor of the sacrifices their generation made. There have been a total of six flights, taking around 600 veterans to D.C. Photo story on page 10-11.

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.

The Diversity Corner

Diversity as a Military Necessity



by Gen. Norton Schwartz

Air Force Chief of Staff

I begin by noting the U.S. Armed Force's history of removing barriers to opportunity—at times, even leading the way for changes that became the new norm for many segments of our civil society. I would further argue that, in the intervening years, we have turned the corner to positively recognize that inclusion has increased Air Force efficiency and strengthened effectiveness—a subtle turn of the phrase with enormous implications.

But where earlier equal opportunity programs focused on race and gender, the current movement is to increase meaningful diversity progresses beyond these essential demographic considerations, to cover qualities and characteristics that are more subtle and therefore more difficult to measure. These include factors such as individual perspectives, skills and aptitudes – aspects of our personnel that heretofore, we have not tracked closely, or for which we may have not yet have even developed suitable metrics for tracking. Contemporary, cutting-edge diversity strategies focus attention on factors such as these—and they must.

We know that our strength is drawn from diverse perspectives that develop from different backgrounds—to name a few: socioeconomic, educational, geographic, philosophical, and spiritual. As long as we continue to demand and maintain working environments that are conducive to equal opportunity—environments that favor fostering and maintaining diversity of perspectives among our

workforce—then, I think, we will remain on the right track toward an even more equitable and diverse force, with enhanced performance and effectiveness.

But, our next challenge will be to identify more clearly how this is done, and how we can measure our progress.

Accordingly, the Air Force recently formed the Air Force Diversity Committee, a senior-level working group that is specifically chartered to find meaningful ways in which we can leverage diversity, toward greater overall effectiveness. This new endeavor is an essential one, because, as we discovered in our sincere attempts to diversify our force, diversity is necessary – but in itself not sufficient – to enhance the performance of the team. That is to say, diversity should not be an end unto itself, but rather one of the means toward our broader desired state of enhanced effectiveness as an Air Force.

Therefore “managing diversity” also implies—perhaps more so than important considerations of race, gender, and ethnicity alone—a more active recognition and appreciation of the increasingly multicultural nature of contemporary organizations. Beyond new policies, there are immediate and difficult questions that we must answer—most notably: how to measure and register our progress.

Are there objective criteria for assessing the kinds of diversity that we need to measure – for example: a candidates socioeconomic, educational, geographic, philosophical

Continued on page 8...

“We know that our strength is drawn from diverse perspectives that develop from different backgrounds.”

Gen. Norton Schwartz



U.S. Army photo by Tim Hipps, IMCOM Public Affairs

Wyoming Guardsman shines with game winning home run

by Staff Sgt. Natalie Stanley
Public Affairs specialist

“It feels great to be a representative of the Guard.”

Staff Sgt Travis Wollison

The championship game is tied, it is overtime, and your team has battled back from behind. Up till now the game has been a team effort, but now it's your turn up to the plate and all eyes are on you. As the ball park lights glare down on you, you step up to the plate and dig in, finding the perfect position. You block everything out - the cheering crowd and even your nerves - while waiting for the perfect pitch. As the bright yellow ball comes your way, you swing with all your strength and bam, you watch as the ball goes sailing over the fence. You've just hit the winning home run.

For any competitive softball or

baseball player, this is what they play for, the championship win and the honor of contributing to that win. For many, it will always be a dream, a moment in time to hope for and work toward, but this dream became a reality for Staff Sgt. Travis Wollison during the 2011 Armed Forces Softball Gold Medal Game. Wollison, an air traffic controller with the 243rd Air Traffic Control Squadron, Wyoming Air National Guard, hit the game winning home-run during of the Armed Forces Softball Championship, in Pensacola, Fla., on Sept. 22, to win the gold medal, beating the All-Army team. His journey began more than eight years ago when he took up soft-



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. John Galvin

ball while stationed at Kunsan Air Base, Korea, on a remote assignment. Wollison has played baseball throughout his life and started playing softball as a way to continue his love of the game. "I like the competitiveness and the team camaraderie," he said.

Wollison, who joined the Wyoming Air National Guard in July, tried out for the All-Air Force team for the first time in August. He was selected as one of 15 players for the 2011 team.

Wollison made history by making the team as the first ever traditional Guardsman. "It feels great to be a representative of the Guard and my unit, 243rd ATC, and to represent at an all Air Force level is an absolute honor and a real privilege,"

Wollison said.


Master Sgt. Brandi Matzek, 243rd ATC first sergeant said, "he wasn't even with us a month when he came to us wanting to fulfill his dream of trying out for the All-Air Force team and we (243rd leadership) immediately started to see what we could do to support him."

With the support of the WyANG behind him, Wollison traveled to Pensacola to play in the round-robin tournament where the best record in the end wins the gold. Going in to the final game the All-Air Force and All-Army teams were equally matched both having a 6 and 2 record.

The championship game was an uphill struggle for the All-Air Force team, spending almost the entire

game behind. The All-Army team led 8-0 after three innings and 16-10 after six. The team rallied setting up Wollison for the opportunity to hit the game winning home run making the final score 20-19.

When asked what he felt in that final moment, he said, "it was a relief more than anything, it was a tough game and it was a total team effort all the way through," said Wollison. The members of the WyANG couldn't have been more proud of Wollison's performance. "He is a very nice guy, responsible and humble, he did the Guard and the unit proud," said Matzek.

Wollison hopes to represent the Guard again next year by making the team again saying, "To be invited back would be a privilege." 

Photos by Staff Sgt.
Sarah Austin



The Rugged Maniac

by Capt. Eric Green
153rd Communications
Flight commander

Capt. Eric Green, Tech. Sgt. Zachary Austin, Tech. Sgt. Joseph Sisco, Staff Sgt. Joseph Osborn, and Kristie Green, members of the 153rd Communications Flight ventured to Morrison, Colo., to tackle the 5K Rugged Maniac, on Oct. 15. What is the Rugged Maniac you might ask? It is a race consisting of a 5K obstacle course that combines rugged terrain and burly obstacles to allow individuals with a



sense of adventure to test themselves, then bask in the glory of their accomplishment.

The course features at least 15 obstacles, designed by Navy SEALs, to include: walls up to 7' high; crawling through

mud under barbed wire; 30 degree hill climbs; and a cargo net.

The Rugged Maniac isn't just about getting dirty and playing in sub freezing water, it's for a good cause, supporting two charities. One supports

young adults dealing with the emotional effects of cancer and the second provides ongoing events and activities, and a unique support community, for lives who have a child with cancer or some other life-threatening medical condition.

The next time that you want a challenge, a chance to work on your physical fitness, or just to increase unit morale, think about participating in the Rugged Maniac or maybe even the Warrior Dash scheduled for August 2012 at Copper Mountain, Colo.



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

Combined Federal Campaign

CFC Mission is to support and promote charitable giving, with more than 2,600 charities to choose from. Last year, Cheyenne CFC raised \$225,590 of which \$63,137 stayed local. The CFC campaign runs Oct. 10 - Nov. 18. The 153rd Airlift Wing's goal is \$7,500. Contributions can be made via: payroll deduction, cash or check. Please contact your unit representative with any questions or Tech. Sgt. Jon Sorcic 772-6789.

WyANG Airmen and Family Readiness Program volunteers receive awards


State of Wyoming Military Department
Office of the Adjutant General



Several Wyoming Air National Guard Airman and Family Readiness Program volunteers were honored at a luncheon, Sunday, at the Wyoming National Guard Joint Force Readiness Center. Amy Wheeler, key spouse for the 243rd Air Traffic Control Squadron and 153rd Airlift Wing staff, was named the 2011 Wyoming Air National Guard Volunteer of the Year. Wheeler has been an active volunteer with the Wyoming Air National Guard for eight years. She is the wife of Chief Master Sgt. Gregory Wheeler. Anita Benton, wife of Master Sgt.



Photos by Capt. Pedro Rampolla


Alan Benton, 153rd Maintenance Squadron, and Laura Hensala, wife of Master Sgt. Michael Hensala, 187th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, were selected for the Exceptional Volunteer Awards. 

Diversity cont...

and spiritual background? If so, what are these criteria? We must devise objective standards if we are to measure our progress toward a more meaningful diverse workforce, at both the individual and group levels.

The Air Force's Diversity Strategic Roadmap and Policy Directive 36-70, as well as the final report of the DoD Military Leadership Diversity Commission, has already begun to address fundamental questions, such as, "How do we define 'diversity'?" and, "What are our goals, targets, and strategies?" Also, the Air Force roadmap lays out our objectives to institutionalize diversity throughout the Air Force, allowing us to attract, recruit, develop, and retain a highly-qualified, talented Total Force.

As we approach this challenge, we will consider ways in which we can engage every Airman (officer, enlisted, and civilian) across the Total Force (active, Guard, and Reserve) as participants in this process, and encourage them to share in the responsibility for ensuring that the talents and capabilities of each individual are mutually respected and valued, and applied toward enhancing mission accomplishment.

Your Air Force embraces the fundamental value of a diverse workforce whose individual members, while possessing different backgrounds and perspectives, are singularly bound in common cause, lending their creativity, energy, and dedication to the betterment of our mission and our Nation's security. I stand before you tonight, proudly representing the men and women who make up the most formidable, most respected air force in the world today. 

Family Readiness Happenings

Operation Guardian Angel Begins Oct. 1

The Wyoming National Guard Family Readiness Programs would like to help make the holiday season brighter for military children of service members who may be in need of some extra assistance during this special time of year. This

program known as OPERATION GUARDIAN ANGEL provides for anonymous gift giving, allowing children the opportunity to enjoy gifts they would otherwise not see because their family may be currently experiencing financial or other unfortunate difficulties. Please contact Denise Rampolla, airman and


Continued on page 9...

Family Readiness Cont...

family readiness program manager, 307-772-6063 or denise.rampolla@ang.af.mil for more information, to adopt an angel or to recommend a family for sponsorship. Christmas Holiday Food baskets are also provided.

Annual 153 AW Airman and Family Readiness Program Children's Holiday Party and Lunch with Santa

The Annual 153 AW Airman and Family Readiness Program Children's Holiday Party and Lunch with Santa will take place on Dec. 10, at the 153 AW dining facility from 1100-1400. Tickets are on

sale now. Tickets will be available for \$7 a person (tickets are required for each parent and each child). Ticket cost covers a visit/picture with Santa, wrapped age/gender appropriate gift; treat bags/toys, holiday candy, five craft projects and lunch. Tickets can be purchased from the 153 AW Family Readiness Office 307-772-6063 or through Master Sgt. Dawn McDonnell in the wing commander's office. Families who are experiencing financial hardship or who have a member deployed during this time frame can contact the Wing Airman and Family Readiness Office for assistance with sponsored tickets. 






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

Employment 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.

Full-time Employment

Army National Guard Air National Guard

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
Immateral	Training Site Detachment Commander O-4	30 OCT 11
Immateral	Education Service Officer	06 NOV 11
Immateral	J-7 O-5	06 NOV 11
42B	EEO/EO Staff Officer O-4	06 NOV 11
Immateral	Mob Readiness Div. Chief O-5	06 NOV 11
Chaplain	Joint Forces Chanlain O-6	14 NOV 11



Visit

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

HONORING COURAGE and SACRIFICE

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Natalie Stanley





We Salute

Promotions

Airman 1st Class Piper Helphand
Airman 1st Class Michael Killion
Senior Airman Jason Creel
Senior Airman Michael Greenlee
Senior Airman Andrew Horgan
Senior Airman Vince Russell

Retirements

Lt. Col. Thomas Carroll
Senior Master Sgt. Rick McKean
Master Sgt. Lydia Garcia

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