

# BIG SKY FLYER



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## Command Information

Chief Master Sgt. Steven Lynch  
120th Airlift Wing Command Chief

Another year in the books! Last month Col. Smith summed up all of the outstanding accomplishments you achieved throughout the year. I am truly in awe as I reflect back to the same time last year. It seemed like a large mountain to climb yet I had no doubt as a team we would meet and exceed all the objectives. We flew through the end of conversion right into our first deployment in support of OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE where many of you are proudly serving. You knocked it out of the park in true Montana fashion and my hat is off to all.

As I look forward to this New Year I find myself asking, "What could we improve as an enlisted force within the [CLICK FOR COMPLETE STORY](#)



Ottis West, lead resiliency instructor for Techwerks, LLC, speaks to 120th Airlift Wing Airmen during Wingman Day, December 3, at the Mansfield Center in Great Falls, Mont. (U.S. Air National Guard photo/Master Sgt. Michael Touchette)

## Wingman Day emphasizes resiliency

By Master Sgt. Michael Touchette

Nearly 500 Airmen from the 120th Airlift Wing gathered Saturday of the December drill for the annual Wingman Day event at the Mansfield Center here.

Following a year in review video highlighting the events the wing has participated in during 2016, 120th AW Commander Col. Lee Smith opened the event challenging Airmen to get outside of their comfort zone.

"Comfort zones are nice, but nothing ever grows there," said Smith. "It takes courage to step outside your comfort zone."

Smith said trying new things and taking risks develops resiliency and only by stepping outside our comfort zones can we challenge ourselves and others to make changes.

"In time culture shifts, society changes, you all will change,"

said Smith. "If the organization doesn't keep up, then it runs the risk of no longer being relevant."

Smith said that organizations don't venture out of their comfort zones, it is individuals within organizations that do.

"The world is changing around us and, like it or not, it's not going to wait for us

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Chief Master Sgt. Pat Halko lends a hand to Guardsmen during a skit performed during the 120th Airlift Wing's Wingman Day event December 3 at the Mansfield Center.



## Featured video: 120th Airlift Wing Year in Review

By Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson

## Volunteers support annual community dinner

By Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson



Montana Air National Guard Airmen turned out in force to prepare the 24th annual Danny Berg Memorial Christmas Dinner December 24 at the 120th Airlift Wing.

The annual dinner is named for a former member of the 120th AW who established the event for residents of the local community who may not have family members or friends to spend the holiday with. Retired Master Sgt. Danny Berg passed away after battling cancer in 2008.

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**Meals on wheels delivered to community residents**

By Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson



The 2016 holiday season was a made a bit brighter for some residents of Great Falls thanks to 12 members of the 120th Communications Flight.

For the second year in a row the group of volunteers selected the Cascade County Meals on Wheels program to spend the morning of December 21 delivering packages to disadvantaged individuals or senior citizens.

120th CF Communications Security Manager Master Sgt. [CLICK FOR COMPLETE STORY](#)

**NCOs and Senior NCOs inducted into new ranks**

By Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson

Twelve 120th Airlift Wing noncommissioned officers and six senior noncommissioned officers were welcomed into their new ranks during an induction ceremony held in the 120th AW Headquarters Building Larsen Room December 4.

The ceremony provided an opportunity for family members and coworkers to witness the recognition of 120th AW [CLICK FOR COMPLETE STORY](#)



Col. Lee Smith congratulates Staff Sgt. Peter Stevens at the completion of the ceremony. (U.S. Air National Guard photo/ Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson)

**New 219th RHS NCOs and SNCOs recite common creed**

By Staff Sgt. Lindsey Soulsby



The 219th Rapid Engineering, Deployable, Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer, or RED HORSE Squadron, inducted six noncommissioned officers and seven senior NCO's here Dec. 4 at the 219th RHS Structures Building before the annual awards ceremony.

The newly promoted members stood in front of friends, family and Airmen for a ceremony recognizing their new [CLICK FOR COMPLETE STORY](#)

**Four first lieutenants promoted on same day**

By Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson

Four Montana Air National Guard second lieutenants received their silver first lieutenant bars in a promotion ceremony held at the 120th Airlift Wing December 16.

120th AW Executive Officer Maj. Maureen Maphies administered the oaths to second lieutenants Bradley J. Gauvin, Caressa L. Hewitt, Raymond R. Orsua and Cassandra L. Ross during a ceremony attended by family, friends and coworkers [CLICK FOR COMPLETE STORY](#)



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**50 years ago—the history of the MTANG (Scanned image from the 120th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office negative files)**



Members of the Montana Air National Guard have a history of supporting worthy charitable causes.

The national March of Dimes fundraising campaign kicked off in January 1967 and MTANG personnel volunteered to assist the organization.

On January 14 Airmen set up signs on major Great Falls streets. Motorists stopped their cars and donated funds to help the effort.

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**January RSD lunch menu**

**Saturday**-BBQ Beef Cubes, Orange Glazed Chicken Breast, Steamed Jasmine Rice, Mashed Potatoes, Glazed Carrots, Mixed Vegetables

**Sunday**-Pork Chops with Mushroom Gravy, Chicken Tacos, Noodles Jefferson, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Calico Corn

**Soup**-Bean and Ham

**Desert**-Cheesecake, Pumpkin Pie, Peach Crisp, Jello, Soft Serve Ice Cream Bar