

BIG SKY FLYER



Vol. XXXIV No. 2
Feb. 11, 2017

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120th Airlift Wing 2017 Airmen of the Year



SrA Precious Librojo
120 MDG
Airman Category



SSgt Aaron Duboise
120 MXG
NCO Category



SMSgt Heather Kelley
120 MSG
Senior NCO Category



MSGt Melissa Gallagher
120 MSG
First Sergeant Category



2nd Lt Bradley Gauvin
120 WHQ
CGO Category



Command Information

Col. Pat Hover
120th Operations Group Commander

In thinking of what to write in this month's article one thing kept coming to my mind. "Thanks".

"What do you mean thanks?" Well, what I mean is the general spirit or behavior of giving thanks, and being thankful for all we are blessed with and the great [CLICK FOR COMPLETE STORY](#)

120th AW members named Airmen of the Year

By Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson

The names of five Airmen who will serve as Airmen of the Year for the 120th Airlift Wing of the Montana Air National Guard were announced by 120th AW Commander Col. Lee Smith in an email sent to wing members Jan. 8, 2017.

Airman of the Year Senior Airman Precious Librojo is a health services management journeyman assigned to the 120th Medical Group.

Staff Sgt. Aaron Duboise is an aircraft structural maintenance craftsman serving with the 120th Maintenance Group and won in the NCO category.

Senior Master Sgt. Heather Kelley is the operations and compliance superintendent assigned to the 120th Logistics Readiness Squadron and won in the senior NCO category.

The first sergeant category was won by Master Sgt. Melissa Gallagher, who serves as the 120th Security Forces Squadron first sergeant.

The company grade officer of the year was won by 2nd Lt. Bradley Gauvin, who serves as a budget officer with the 120th Comptroller Flight of the 120th Wing Headquarters Squadron.

"Their exceptional performance throughout last year stood out in a very competitive field," Col. Smith wrote. "Formal recognition, along with our other annual award winners, will be held during the February RSD. Until then, please congratulate them when you see them for a job well done!"

Airmen return home from deployment

By Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson



Twenty operations and maintenance personnel assigned to the 120th Airlift Wing of the Montana Air National Guard arrived home from a deployment to Southwest Asia Friday.

A reception consisting of MTANG leadership, family members and friends assembled to greet the Airmen at the boarding area of the Great Falls International Airport.

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Deacon brings Catholic services to Guardsmen

By Master Sgt. Michael Touchette

Deacon Iver Johnson of the Saints Cyril and Methodius Church in East Helena officiated a Catholic worship service during the 120th Airlift Wing's Jan. 7 drill in the maintenance classroom.

Although this was only Johnson's second month bringing Catholic services to the wing in Reverend Oliver Doyle's absence, he is no stranger to the base.

"I was in the Guard from 1976 to 2000 and retired in December of 2000," said Johnson.

Johnson said he was approached by Brig. Gen. Pete Hronek, Vice Chief of Joint Staff for the Montana Air National Guard, in September about the possibility of reconnecting with the Guard through his ministry, and Johnson thought that it

would be a perfect fit.

"Being able to reconnect is an important part of ministry, as well as being a servant of the lord," said Johnson. "The Catholics are the second largest religious population on base so we have a deep desire to meet their needs," said Lt. Col. Art McCaffrey, 120th AW chaplain.

McCaffrey said that coordination has to occur between the Roman Catholic clergy, their bishop and the guard in order to get them to provide services.

Johnson's ministry received the approval and support of Most Reverend George Leo Thomas, Ph.D., Bishop of Helena and Reverend John W. Robertson, Vicar for Canonical Services.

Johnson said it is unknown how frequently he will be coming to Great Falls to provide Catholic worship services to the Airmen of the MTANG as

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120th AW technology detects airborne threats

By Staff Sgt. Lindsey Soulsby

The 120th Airlift Wing Readiness and Emergency Management Flight received training on a new, long range contaminant detection monitor kit during the January drill here that will keep them ahead of airborne threats in state emergencies.

National Guard unit readiness and emergency management flights in the continental United States were the first to receive an Area RAE Rapid Deployment Kit from National Guard Bureau, said Senior Master Sgt. Stephen Shovlin, readiness and emergency management superintendent. In short, it's a hard shell carry case filled with the latest gear to sniff and monitor the air for the skull and crossbones type of stuff that can hurt you.

"[It] provides a force multiplier to Air National Guard readiness and emergency management flight embedded with fire and emergency services and bioenvironmental engineering, as well as being able to deploy with our counterparts in the civilian sector," said Shovlin.

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Senior Master Sgt. Amber Westie waves gasoline beneath the sensor of the Area RAE pro, a long range contaminant detection monitor while Tech. Sgt. Marcus Jackson, 120th Airlift Wing readiness and emergency management flight specialist, verifies the alarm was tripped. (U.S. Air National Guard photo/Staff Sgt. Lindsey Soulsby)

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50 years ago—the history of the MTANG

(Scanned image from the 120th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office negative files)



A C-54 Skymaster transport aircraft sits parked on the 120th Fighter Group's ramp in this archived image photographed February 1, 1967.

According to the Boeing Aircraft Company website, C-54s flew more than 20 trips a day over the North Atlantic Ocean during World War II, logging one million miles a month. A special VC-54C also served as the first presidential aircraft for President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The 120th used the C-54 as a support aircraft from 1964-73.

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February RSD lunch menu

Saturday-Lasagna, Chicken Alfredo, Alfredo Noodles, Steamed Rice, Broccoli, Succotash, Bread Sticks

Sunday-Jerk Chicken, Stuffed Pork Chops, South Western Rice, Baked Sweet Potato, Corn on the Cob, Brussel Sprouts

Monday-Braised Beef, Baked Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Egg Noodles, Peas, Carrots

Soup-Tortellini

Desert-Cherry Crisp, Yellow Cake, Parfaits, Jello, Ice Cream