

# BIG SKY FLYER



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Montana National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Matthew Quinn presents the Distinguished Service Medal to Col. Patrick Hover during his retirement ceremony.

## Commander completes 31 years of service

By Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson

A ceremony was held for the retiring 120th Operations Group commander in the Larsen Room of the 120th Airlift Wing Headquarters Building April 28.

Col. Patrick J. Hover completed over 31 years of service in his career as a member of the Montana Air National Guard.

According to his biography, Hover joined the MTANG in January 1986 while still a student at Charles M. Russell High School in Great Falls. After high school graduation he completed Air Force Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas and life support technical training provided at Chanute Air Force Base, Ill.

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A C-130 Hercules aircraft is parked in the newly-constructed Building 80 at the 120th Airlift Wing in Great Falls, Mont. April 6, 2017. Building 80 will serve as the corrosion control and fuel cell maintenance facility for the Montana Air National Guard wing. (U.S. Air National Guard photo/Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson)

## New maintenance hangar open for business

By Senior Master Sgt. Eric Peterson

A new state-of-the-art C-130 Hercules aircraft maintenance hangar was dedicated and placed into service at the Montana Air National Guard's 120th Airlift Wing April 6.

The addition of the new Building 80 and renovation of Building 25 was designed to accommodate the larger C-130 transport aircraft assigned to the wing following its conversion from a fighter mission to an airlift mission.

"This is a really exciting time for us right now because we've been waiting on this hangar for about one year," said 120th AW Maintenance Group Commander Col. Buel Dickson. "It's going to improve our capabilities. This will help out with timing, with manpower and will save money for

the Air Force."

Building 80 houses the corrosion control and fuel cell maintenance facility and was constructed next to the original main hangar Building 25.

Building 25 also underwent extensive renovations during the recent construction that updated maintenance shop areas, administrative offices and training and command areas of the building. A passageway was also built between the two hangars to allow maintenance personnel to share tools and equipment from a tool room located between the two facilities.

According to MTANG documented history, the main [CLICK FOR COMPLETE STORY](#)

## Strengthening Green Dot

By Staff Sgt. Lindsey Soulsby

Members of the 120th Airlift Wing, Great Falls, 219th Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer, Great Falls, Joint Force Headquarters, Helena, attended Green Dot training during the April regularly scheduled drill, as part of the required annual sexual assault response and suicide prevention programs here.

The Montana Air National Guard hosted a speaker, director, We End Violence, Jeff Bulcholtz, to enrich the Green Dot training.

"It is critical to create an environment where you feel safe, respected and (know) your contributions are really important to us because that allows you to focus on your job," said Col. Lee Smith, 120th Airlift Wing commander.

Multiple sessions were offered at MTANG and on Malmstrom Air Force Base, Great Falls, for members to attend the in-person training.



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## Firefighters train in rescue operations

By Capt. Matthew Boyle  
North Carolina National Guard



**NEW LONDON, N.C.**-Instructors from the North Carolina Air National Guard, 145th Civil Engineer Squadron, train airmen from across the country in high rope rescue techniques and confined space rescue operations here at the 145th Regional Training Site in Stanly County, Feb. 13, 2017.

The training is called Urban Search and Rescue I and it teaches students rope techniques, how to repel, high line technique, how to package a victim safely and how to retrieve vic-

tims from confined space such as a rubble pile or damaged building. The instructors are airmen and seasoned firefighters stationed at the Charlotte-Douglas International Airport.

"Chavez where is that anchor supposed to be?" said U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Jeret Kinnaird, a firefighter for the North Carolina Air National Guard, 145th Civil Engineer Squadron as he instructs students how to properly secure a rescue rig. "Dual high line is about to go up!" said Kinnaird.

Airmen of all ranks and skill levels are welcome to attend the course. Many Air National Guard firefighters also work for municipalities and towns as firefighters. This training gives them an opportunity to get FEMA level training that their hometown department may not have access to.

At the core of the course are 12 knots, students must be able to memorize these knots and



Above: Senior Airman Nicolas Ferrell from the 120th Airlift Wing pulls a sled through tunnels at the training area. Far left: 120th AW Staff Sgt. Joseph Chavez performs a confined space rescue. (U.S. Army National Guard Photo by Staff Sgt. Brendan Stephens)

demonstrate them before moving on to using other equipment. The students learn how to use racks, pulleys and anchor straps to create the high rope rescue rig.

"When they can put it all together and perform at a high level, they are ready to conduct a real-world rescue," said Tech. Sgt. Gabe Boulware, an instructor and firefighter for the North Carolina Air [CLICK FOR COMPLETE STORY](#)

## Talking Guard

By Staff Sgt. Lindsey Soulsby

Two Montana Air National Guard officers visited two classes of the Montana State University Air Force Reserves Officers' Training Corps Detachment 450 cadets April 24 at Montana State University, Bozeman campus ROTC classroom.

Lt. Col. Rusty Vaira, 219th Rapid Engineer Deployable [CLICK FOR COMPLETE STORY](#)



219th RED HORSE Squadron commander, and Lt. Col. Larry Gardner, 120th Airlift Wing Operations Support Squadron commander, flip through albums at the Air Force Reserves Officers' Training Corps detachment 450 Montana State University.

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## 50 years ago—the history of the MTANG (From the May 1967 issue of the Montana Air Guardsman)



A new neighbor to the Montana Air Guard is the new Federal Aviation Agency control tower scheduled for dedication on Sunday, May 14, 1967. We hope to get along very well with our new neighbors because they can see everything we do, being up so high and so close.

We have a few facts about the new tower and present them here: The designer is Ioh Ming Pei of New York City. He designed the Kennedy Library. The cost is upwards of 3/4 million. It is one of three being built. The others are at El Paso and Sacramento. It is first to be completed.

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## May RSD lunch menu

**Saturday**-Chicken Enchiladas, Taco Salad, Spanish Rice, Refried Beans, Corn, Lima Beans

**Sunday**-Lemon Herb Chicken, Braised Beef, Noodles, Scalloped Potatoes, Chicken Gravy, Seasoned Carrots, California Blend

**Soup**-Chicken Tortilla

**Desert**-Cake with Chocolate Frosting, Apple Pie, Parfaits, Jello, Soft Serve Ice Cream Bar