

COWBOY GUARD

2022



COWBOY GUARD

2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

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Major General Gregory C. Porter
Adjutant General, Wyoming National Guard

LETTER from the ADJUTANT GENERAL

In the following pages, you will get a glimpse of a very small portion of what the Cowboy Guard accomplished in 2022. The width and breadth of the tasks and missions our Team accomplishes are amazing.

We continue to be awed by the professionalism, dedication, commitment, and drive of our members who serve as the Sword and Shield for the State and Nation.

Our strength is our people. Our focus is building teams that are trained and ready.

We cannot defend our nation or provide a lethal effort without a cohesive team that centers on trust and proficiency at our primary tasks. Standards, discipline, and intent-based leadership are the foundation.

We must maintain as we build teams capable of defeating our nation's enemies and delivering on our enduring commitment to protect the residents of our state.

Ride for the Brand,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Gregory C. Porter". The signature is written in a cursive style.





ON THE COVER

Sgt. Holloway Named Best Warrior for NG

08.05.2022 | STORY & PHOTOS BY SGT KRISTINA KRANZ



Sgt. Tyler Holloway, a fire support specialist with the 115th Field Artillery Brigade in the Wyoming Army National Guard, was named top Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year in the Army National Guard. He earned this distinction by winning the 2022 All-Guard Best Warrior Competition held July 22-29 in Tennessee.

Sgt. Spencer Fayles, a combat medic with the 144th Area Support Medical Co. in the Utah Army National Guard, was named top Soldier of the Year for the competition.

The announcement came on July 29, 2022, in Nashville at the Old Hickory Country Club. Fourteen competitors and dozens of other Army and Air National Guard staff and supporters gathered in a ceremony to celebrate the accomplishments of these Soldiers over the previous week.

Sgt. Holloway is the first Wyoming Soldier to earn the distinction of Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year for the Army National Guard. "We've had other Soldiers win the regional event, but this is the first time a Wyoming Soldier has topped the entire field. Watching Sgt. Holloway train and perform reminded me of all we have to be proud of in Wyoming," added Command Sgt. Major Lindsay Schmidt, state command sergeant major of the Wyoming Army National Guard.

On July 22, Soldiers from Hawaii, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, West Virginia, and Wyoming gathered in Tennessee. Each represented a region after winning top honors in smaller regional competitions. As a result, they are the best-of-the-best in the nation for the Army National Guard.

The weeklong national competition took place in five locations across the state of Tennessee. The grueling competition put the Soldiers through daunting tasks that tested their soldiering abilities mentally and physically.

More than 30 graded events had the competitors running through tasks that included water survival, combat fitness tests, combat casualty care, and marksmanship drills. In addition, there was a high-value target extraction where fire teams infiltrated a complex together in groups. There was also a Valor Run, where competitors went through simulated tasks based on actual events experienced by Medal of Honor recipients. These are just a few examples of the high-intensity events that occurred.

Sgt. Holloway's strategy throughout the competition? Humor. Humor raised the spirits of Holloway and his 13 fellow competitors through the grueling competition.

"I always try to laugh through the pain, and if I can joke around and make someone else smile and take their mind off the pain, then I know I'm making it easier for them and myself," Holloway said.

Holloway often joked, trying to get a laugh out of his fellow competitors whenever they had a little downtime between events. However, the camaraderie among the competitors was like no other. You could tell that it was infectious.



Every competitor pushed themselves to their limits and beyond. You could see it on their faces, especially at the end of each event they finished.

"I have learned the limits I can push myself are much further than I would have imagined," said Holloway. "I have also learned that I don't give myself enough credit regarding my knowledge of certain tactics and techniques. It's truly made me a better NCO and allows me to extend influence around me."

The final event was a 16-mile ruck march through Lynchburg, Tennessee. Competitors trucked along the busy roads of the rural town with all of their gear on their backs. They carried their respective state flags across the finish line toward the end. You could feel the relief coming from the Soldiers as they crossed the finish line and realized they had reached the end of the competition.

"Competitions like this inspire our Soldiers to strive for excellence and to find their limits and exceed them," said Command Sgt. Maj. Dale Crockett, command sergeant major of the Tennessee Army National Guard. "Tough, realistic training is critical to ensuring prepared Soldiers to fight and win our nation's battles. These highly trained and disciplined Soldiers are role models for our formations to emulate."

"Having a Wyoming Soldier bring home this incredible honor is humbling," said Maj. Gen. Gregory Porter, Wyoming's adjutant general. "I am proud of Sgt. Holloway and I know that this event represented months of individual training. He set a goal to perform and win at this level and made Wyoming proud. Sgt. Holloway represents the lethality of the Wyoming National Guard, and last week in Tennessee, he rode for the brand!"



"I always try to laugh through the pain, and if I can joke around and make someone else smile and take their mind off the pain, then I know I'm making it easier for them and myself"



Lethality

Wyoming Army National Guard Soldier, Spc. Zachary Pinc competes against other Soldiers during the weapons skills portion of the tournament at the Region Six Best Warrior Competition at Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center, Wyo., May 19, 2022. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Kristina Kranz)



Where did we go?

A total of 140 Soldiers and Airmen deployed

2022 Deployments and Exercises

16

NORTHCOM

Soldiers and Airmen deployed within the U.S. Northern Command to support natural disaster relief efforts, command support and operation requirements, and various training exercises.

15

EUCOM

Wyoming Guard members deployed to the U.S. European Command to support aeromedical evacuation and command support requirements.

1

SOUTHCOM

Wyoming Air National Guard Civil Engineering Squadron deployed one of its members to U.S. Southern Command to support operations in Guantanamo Bay.



18

AFRICOM

Most of the Wyoming National Guard's U.S. Africa Command activities supported aeromedical and civil engineering efforts and our partner country, Tunisia.

One Wyoming Soldier is permanently stationed in Tunisia.

57

CENTCOM

Wyoming National Guard members deployed to U.S. Central Command to support medical, air traffic control, and ongoing warfighting operations throughout the region.

43

PACOM

Wyoming Air National Guard deployed members to U.S. Pacific Command in support of Dynamic Force Employment exercises.

Protecting the Nation



Soldiers of the Wyoming Army National Guard conduct a deployment ceremony for Alpha Company, 2-149th Aviation Battalion (Wyoming Outriders), on June 9, 2022, Cheyenne, Wyo.



Airmen of the Wyoming Air National Guard and their families are honored during a deployment ceremony on April 6, 2022.





Delta Company's First-Ever Training

10.12.2022 | STORY SGT KRISTINA KRANZ & PHOTOS COURTESY OF UNIT

The Wyoming Army National Guard completed another successful annual training season for 2022. As always, it was a busy season, with many units starting training earlier than usual. Late spring into the summer is the time that Soldiers train on their yearly qualifications.

Most importantly, annual training is geared explicitly toward ensuring soldiers are proficient and qualified in their specific military occupations. Typically at least 14 days of annual training gives Soldiers hands-on experiences they otherwise wouldn't have during their weekend unit training assemblies.

Recently, the Wyoming Army National Guard has undergone some force structure changes, which included adding another infantry unit. For Delta Co., 1st Battalion, 297th Regiment, this was their first annual training season as a new unit. When the option became available to join Delta Co., several members from Wyoming units transferred in; for others, this was their first duty assignment straight out of initial entry training. In addition, a handful of other

Soldiers came in from an active duty component.

"The company continues to grow, and new Soldiers are assigned weekly," says Capt. Eric Rush, commander of Delta Co. "Around 15 Soldiers transferred from units around Wyoming. Delta Co. is also the first assignment for 10 Soldiers, and another five have transferred from an active component."

Delta Co.'s first AT consisted of conducting the Army Combat Fitness Test, of which the unit had a 100% passing rate. They also executed driver's training and land navigation in a military vehicle. Soldiers also rehearsed Gunnery Skills Test tasks, where they trained to acquire and engage targets in various conditions. Additionally, they prepared range cards, a sketch of an assigned area for a direct-fire weapon system, established fighting positions and completed Situational Tactical Exercise lanes.

All these exercises resulted in the Soldier's basic understanding of what a heavy weapons infantry



company does, what the mission is, and how the company differs from a rifle infantry company.

Like most units in Wyoming, the company trained at Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center. But, according to Rush, the ability to train and maneuver vehicles in complex terrain is unmatched elsewhere in the state. "Camp Guernsey offers some of the best infantry terrain available, and it's local for our unit," he says.

Delta Co. also has a unique mission compared to other units in the Wyoming Army Guard. They are the fastest-moving company in a light infantry battalion with unique challenges and assignments. In addition, the company presents the opportunity to train on and utilize heavy and anti-armor weapons. "The Soldiers left AT hungry and motivated to be a part of a new unit," says Rush. In addition, infantry naturally attracts young Soldiers with a thirst for adventure.

Delta Co. is the second infantry company to call Wyoming home and is the sister company to Charlie Co., 1st Battalion, 297th Infantry Regiment.

Overall, annual training for the Soldiers of the Wyoming Guard completed a successful season, validating their Soldier proficiencies and qualifications. All Soldiers must complete an Army Combat Fitness Test and weapons qualification. The rest is dedicated to their military occupations to ensure they are ready to respond as the Sword and Shield of our nation.



"Trained, engaged, empowered soldiers ready to respond. They didn't have to do this. They didn't have to drive up here and compete, but they did. The fact that they did says a lot about who they are. To them, I say thank you for making the Wyoming Guard better by participating in this event." -Brig. Gen. Steve Alkire



Best Warriors in the State

04.14.2022 | STORY & PHOTOS BY SGT KRISTINA KRANZ

Sgt. Tyler Holloway and Spc. Zachary Pinc fought their way to the top to win the 2022 Wyoming Army National Guard State Best Warrior competition. Nine other competitors from across the state came together to compete in the grueling competition from March 31 to April 3 at Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center. Each Soldier participated in various rigorous events testing their mental and physical soldiering capabilities. Additionally, each event tested the competitor's combat effectiveness based on foundational warrior tasks and drills. In the end, only one Soldier and one non-commissioned officer come out on top.

"It makes us more combat effective when we know those skills. Also, the dissemination of information reduces the workload on everyone and makes us a better force as a whole," says Holloway, a first non-commissioned officer with the 115th Field Artillery Brigade in Cheyenne. Holloway competed in the State Best Warrior last year but came up just short of the win, placing second.

The first day of the competition kicked off with a formal inspection and board interview. Each competitor had to report in their service dress uniform, ensuring all parts were strictly in place. Following the review, they were to report to a panel of senior non-commissioned officers to answer questions about soldier tasks, warrior ethos, and leadership.

The following two days began the rigorous physical tests. First, they headed to the training area in the northern part of Camp Guernsey. Next, they conducted events that tested each Soldier's ability to assess and treat combat injuries, move tactically under live ammunition fire, and fully disassemble and reassemble several weapons systems. The competitors took part in 17 various events. The day culminated in a 12-mile ruck march with 45 pounds of gear on their backs.

The final day of the competition started before the sun rose at 4 a.m. with land navigation. Given a series of grid coordinates, a compass, and a map, Soldiers must find all the grid coordinates within the

time allotted. Soldiers tested their accuracy in plotting the points and navigation through the terrain between the varying landscape, often out-of-sight grid coordinate markers, and lack of sunlight. Some grid coordinates were as far as half a mile from each other, leaving little room for error.

The three-day event culminated with long hours spent on the firing range, where competitors shot a variety of weapon systems and were judged based on their accuracy in hitting different targets, having to walk between each range for the events, which spanned around half a mile.

On the last day, Brig. Gen. Steve Alkire, commander of the Wyoming Army Guard, was present to help announce the winners and commend all competitors' dedication and willingness to participate.

"Trained, engaged, empowered soldiers ready to respond. They didn't have to do this. They didn't have to drive up here and compete, but they did," Alkire says. "The fact that they did says a lot about who they are. So to them, I say thank you for making the Wyoming Guard better by participating in this event."





The Hawks with a Fist full of ACEs

09.18.2022 | STORY BY SRA KYLEE WARREN | PHOTOS BY MSGT JON ALDERMAN & SRA KYLEE WARREN

On a dry August morning, two UH-60 Blackhawks crossed the sky over Cheyenne's air space. In perfect attack formation, they positioned, hovered, and kicked up wind, dust, and debris as they rapidly descended onto the field adjacent to the air traffic control tower. An instant later, airmen assigned to an elite team of airfield operators, known as "NEST" (Non-permissive Environment Security Team), charged out of the helos. The choppers instantly lifted and provided armed overwatch as the armed airmen emerged from the dust of the rotor's downwash and, using bolt cutters, breached the gate separating the airfield from the control tower. Then, in unison, the NEST stealthily made their way to the base of the control tower, breached the door with an inert training explosive device, and stormed up the tower stairs towards the cab. The objective was to capture Cheyenne's control tower, claim the airspace, and secure the airfield as a part of an Agile Combat Employment training event called Triple ACE AT.

"Triple ACE was a three-day training event created and executed by the 243d Air Traffic Control Squadron Red-

tailed Hawks," explained Captain Dan Hochhalter, the Commander of the 243d ATCS and the Director of Triple ACE AT. "During this event, our Hawks proved Agile Combat Employment (ACE) in three different areas of responsibility: rapid mobile air traffic/landing zone/drop zone control; medium and light package Radar Airfield and Weather System (RAWS) equipment setup/employment; and Non-permissive Environment Security Team (NEST) seizure."

The exercise involved six military units, three civilian aviation organizations, observers from 12 different states, and critical leadership from around Cheyenne and the Wyoming National Guard. The purpose of Triple ACE was to demonstrate power projection through a "hub-and-spoke" tactic at six locations over three days.

"Hub-and-spoke ATC operations involve rapidly spurring out from a centrally secured location to other austere positions needing airfield, landing or drop zone operations." Hochhalter explains, "Some of these locations will require Seizing, Opening, Controlling, and Returning-to-



base (SOCR) on the same day. We did this at six different locations simultaneously each day for three days straight, utilizing just one ATC squadron.”

These six locations operating concurrently in southeast Wyoming included two airports, two drop zones, and two landing zones. The overall distance across these locations was nearly 100 miles. Some of these locations were rustic, simulating a real-world scenario where airmen may be required to turn natural or underdeveloped terrain into a makeshift airport. The 243d began this three-day exercise on an austere landing strip 80 miles north of Cheyenne, just outside the Camp Guernsey Army installation. This location was surveyed and built up as a landing zone (LZ) and adjacent drop zone (DZ) where allied forces could assemble and forward-deploy. Here (Wright LZ), multiple C-130s from the Wyoming and Montana Air National Guard conducted non-stop operations for numerous hours each day, in addition to heavy loads being dropped and controlled at nearby Moss DZ, all while helicopter traffic mixed in for personnel infil/exfil to the LZ.

“Landing zones can be established on paved surfaces as well as dirt and grass strips,” Hochhalter said. “Being able to survey, mark, and control on unimproved surfaces

quickly is a critical next step for the ATC community and our projected next theater.”

During the exercise, the Hawks successfully established an additional drop zone 20 miles north of Cheyenne. They had to survey and set up equipment before it could be adequately controlled as a drop zone area. In addition to seizing and holding the Cheyenne Airport, the 243d convoyed and set up their mobile air traffic control tower (MSN-7) at a location roughly 10 miles east of Cheyenne. From there, they controlled airspace over a grass landing strip and expertly handled Blackhawk helicopters and over a dozen general aviation aircraft in the pattern as they performed touch-and-gos or quickly infilled/exfilled airmen.

In the hub-and-spoke model, this location served as one of the landing zones.

“Landing Zone Controllers and Drop Zone Controllers are the future of military ATC, and Southeast Wyoming has an expansive training area to assist in training these new controller skills,” Hochhalter outlined. “These Wyoming locations are also perfectly set up for training more NEST Operators in the art of taking airfield seizure handoffs from Special Tactics Teams,” said Hochhalter. “NEST Operators are also being trained as LZCs and DZCs to immediately control the follow-on portion of the squadron





into the area, which would further establish a sustained operation, all while providing their own security to their people and equipment so that STTs can forward deploy and open yet another location.”

Back in Cheyenne, the NEST portion of the Hawks made their way up the control tower stairwell, expertly clearing each floor and seizing the tower cab. At that point, they began controlling the airspace, allowing the 243d to land a C-130 and demonstrate critical refueling capabilities. Once parked, the C-130 offloaded an empty R-11 fuel truck while engines were running ; the wet wing defueled from itself to the truck and departed.

Following this expeditious offload and refueling, UH-60 Blackhawks needing fuel landed and received fuel from the now full R-11 truck and also did so while engines were still running, completing the first hot pit refuel to ever occur on the 153d Airlift Wing’s apron.

“Although Triple ACE was a training event, the airmen involved faced real-world challenges,” Hochhalter said. For example, one airport involved in the exercise was under construction, restricting the type of aircraft that could land there. In addition, a real-world nationwide aircraft grounding forced the command team to adjust their plans at the last minute. “The Hawks had prepared nearly a year for this training event,” Hochhalter explained. “They had attended multiple out-of-state exercises leading up to Triple ACE, which provided them the tools and experience needed to quickly pivot and generate alternative courses of action, which resulted in exceeding all expectations. I couldn’t be prouder of my Hawks.”

After three days of execution, the squadron had successfully controlled 1,041 operations, more than tripling the previous record set by an ATCS during an annual training week. “It brought a whole new meaning to the ‘Triple’ in Triple ACE,” joked Hochhalter after discovering they had tripled the record. “Here at the 243d, setting the standard is the expectation.” “Triple ACE proved that the 243d is postured and ready to convert to a Combat Airfield Operations Squadron,” Hochhalter pronounced. “Being one of ten ATCSs in the Air National Guard, the Hawks have proven they are ready to lead the way for their community in blazing the trail for all ATCSs to convert to a CAOS, a much-needed evolution that will better structure and train the ATC and airfield ops communities for the next fight--a fight the Hawks are ready for.”

Responsiveness

A Civil Support Team member dons a gas mask in preparation to respond to a call regarding a white substance found at the 153rd Airlift Wing, Wyoming Air National Guard, Oct. 20, 2022. The 84th Civil Support team, 153rd first response team members, and local Cheyenne first responders assisted in assessing and mitigating the suspicious powder. The full story is on the following page.

(U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Jacqueline Marshall)





ROACH

CST Responds to Real-World Threat

10.20.2022 | STORY & PHOTOS BY MSGT JACQUELINE MARSHALL

The 84th Civil Support Team and first responder elements of the 153rd Airlift Wing, Wyoming Air National Guard, responded to a potential white powder threat on Oct. 20, 2022, at the Wyoming Air National Guard Base.

The Wyoming Air National Guard Fire Department, Emergency Management, and Security Forces were quickly on the scene to cordon off the mailroom and adjacent areas, safely evacuate the building, shut off the HVAC system, and establish a response command framework.

The American Medical Response and Cheyenne Fire Department provided patient care and additional entry assistance. The 84th CST assisted with identifying and mitigating the suspicious powder, resulting in a multiagency entry. In addition, they performed proper decontamination to remove the suspicious package.

The 84th CST then completed an analysis in their mobile laboratory. After examination, the substance was identified as SAMPPI NPK 8-3-3 fertilizer, and although harmless, it provided a chance for all participants to demonstrate their proficiency within their functional areas. Additional training is already in place to increase efficiencies with all agencies involved in these scenarios.

Still, the rapid response of the 153rd AW and 84th CST is a testament to the quality of their training and professionalism.







Crews Train in Boise in Case Wildfires Require Military Muscle

05.05.2022 | STORY BY MADELYN BECK | PHOTOS BY SMSGT ROB TRUBIA & MSGT JON ALDERMAN

The sun was shining in Boise last Wednesday afternoon, but a field near the airport got a few thousand gallons of precipitation thanks to a massive C-130 Hercules air tanker.

This was part of a five-day training in late April for a special team of military personnel who will help fight wildfires if the Forest Service's fleet of private contractors can't meet the demand.

The team is called MAFFS, which stands for Modular Airborne Firefighting Systems.

"We fly C-130 aircraft that are DOD assets — Department of Defense C-130s — that we can fly anywhere in the world, do low-level flying, airdrop missions, just hauling things from one point A to point B," said Varun Purohit, a pilot and MAFFS commander in training. Purohit said fighting wildfires isn't the majority of his job, but the MAFFS teams have been increasingly used in the last few years.

Forest Service and military personnel say that all eight MAFFS air tankers were deployed in 2020 and 2021. Last year was that group's second busiest fire season in 49 years, including 96 days of military support for fighting fires.

This year is shaping up to be another extreme wildfire season, so having this backup may be especially helpful.

MAFFS teams train to fight fires every year in Boise, home of the National Interagency Fire Center, but crews fly in from all over. The eight MAFFS tankers are based in Colorado Springs, Colo.; Cheyenne, Wyo.; Reno, Nev.; and near Oxnard, Calif.

Lt. Col. Purohit flew in from Cheyenne Lt. Col. Purohit flew in from Cheyenne where he works with the Wyoming Air National Guard. He said wildfires are often the most difficult missions they fly. "We're at high altitudes. It's very hot," he said.





“You’re basically max-performing the aircraft. It is a challenge, but I think that’s kind of what makes it unique and maybe appealing in some ways.” The challenge includes dropping these massive planes low and flying slow through heavy smoke, mountainous terrain and sometimes heavy air traffic. It’s dangerous work.

Last year, a pilot with a private company died after his tanker crashed at night while helping to fight the Kruger Rock Fire in northern Colorado. In 2012, two Idaho pilots died along the Utah-Nevada border fighting another large fire.

But when he thinks of the positives, Purohit said these missions allow him to see the direct effects of his work.

“We just dropped on the edge of the fire. That line held. We helped the guys on the ground do their job,” he said.

It’s not just pilots who came to train in Boise, though. There are also ground crews, and flight engineers like Chief Master Sgt. Cameron Pieters. He came up from Reno where he’s part of the Nevada Air National Guard. He said engineers like him monitor all kinds of systems and make sure checklists are completed. “They’re really the conscience of the crew. They bring adult supervision to the flight deck,” he said, smiling.

And for Pieters, wildfire fighting does have its challenges but has its intrigue, too. “You may show up somewhere where the terrain is very rugged, where the smoke is very thick,” he said. “Exciting is probably not the word I’d use. I’d use spicy or sporty.”

This special MAFFs team is only called when there aren’t enough contractors for the Forest Service to tackle big wildfires. But if that happens, Pieters says this training will make sure they’re ready. “This is where we get to knock off the cobwebs, knock off the dust and make sure that we’re able to go out there and execute based on the level that the U.S. Forest Service needs us to do during fire season,” he said.



Governor Gordon Takes Flight

05.13.2022 | PHOTOS BY MSGT JON ALDERMAN

Governor Mark Gordon and Maj. Gen. Greg Porter visit the 153rd Airlift Wing and take a ride on a C-130. As the Commander-in-Chief, Governor Gordon routinely makes visits to Wyoming National Guard units to better understand each units mission and capabilities.







Guernsey Warehouse Gets a Facelift

05.27.2022 | STORY & PHOTOS BY SGT KRISTINA KRANZ



After a year of renovations, the U.S. Property and Fiscal Office warehouse at Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center officially reopened its doors in a ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 27, 2022. The warehouse supports a critical function in the Wyoming Army National Guard by issuing essential Soldier equipment and gear.

The upgrades include a modern interior with additional office spaces, professional areas for staff to work out of, and an improvement in energy efficiency that will allow the building to be a valuable facility for many more years to come.

“This creates a safe and clean environment for the employees within

the warehouse,” said Maj. William Lindmier, the Construction and Facilities Management Office deputy director. “That’s the critical take-away that we wanted to recognize here.”

The USPFO also utilizes two more buildings next to it, storing gear and equipment overflow. An added pathway connects the buildings and makes it easier to move gear from one building to another.

“This allows for more efficient use of our time and a new way to store and issue gear,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Travis Reinhardt, supervisory logistics management specialist.

Support from State Legislature and the State Construction Division allowed the CFMO to utilize state funds to help with the renovation. This approval also paves the way for future projects,



including a new ammunition supply building and new barracks on Camp Guernsey and further renovations to armories across the state.

“I want to thank everybody who had a hand in making this happen,” said Reinhardt. “It’s a big deal.”

The Camp Guernsey projects will break ground within the next year.





Skilled Nursing Facility Grand Opening

10.25.2022 | STORY & PHOTOS BY MSGT JACQUELINE MARSHALL

After just over two years of construction, the new Skilled Nursing Facility in Buffalo, Wyo. officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Oct. 20, 2022, in Buffalo, Wyo. Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon and other distinguished guests, community members, the Wyoming Veterans Commission, staff from the facility, and members of the Veterans Home of Wyoming were present for the ceremony.

As a partner with the Veterans Home to support the needs of veterans, the Wyoming Veterans Commission played a large part in helping the construction of the skilled nursing facility project.

“We provided legislative oversight for the completion of the project. We will

continue to provide support for the first three years of its operation,” said Tim Sheppard, the Wyoming Veterans Commission executive director. The WVC provided support for 65% of the funding for the project.

The facility’s purpose is to provide care to our veterans in Wyoming. It will provide veterans, their spouses, and Gold Star Families long-term care. Especially those that can’t work a traditional job but are still capable of living an active, fulfilling life and don’t necessarily have the means to do so.

The facility consists of three 12-room cottages, providing residents with a



more homelike environment with private rooms that provide more autonomy. In addition, it sits on the grounds of the Veterans Home of Wyoming, which means residents will have direct access to more care if needed.

Acceptance at the facility is for any veteran or their spouse, a surviving spouse, or any Gold Star Family member who qualifies for nursing care.

The Wyoming Veterans Home is also a considerable part of the community of Buffalo.

"It's a great relationship. We've been partners with the Veterans Home forever," said Shane Schrader, the mayor of Buffalo. "Buffalo is very supportive of

its veterans. So many of our community leaders are veterans, and we're here to support them in any way, shape, or form."

The new facility is an integral part of supporting our veterans.

"This is a wonderful community and the right place for a veteran's skilled nursing facility," said Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon. "The people that made this happen have a deep love of service to this country."





FOCUS ON FIRE SAFETY AT CAMP GUERNSEY

05.16.2022 | STORY BY WYNG PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE & PHOTOS COURTESY OF CAMP GUERNSEY

In 2022, Wyoming National Guard's Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center continued to stay prepared and mitigate the risk of wildfires with lessons learned from the previous fire season.

Colonel Christopher L. Troesh, Base Operations Manager for Camp Guernsey, stated in a letter to the community, "This year, we have fire and strategic cattle grazing. We utilized the late-season snow to burn over 30 slash piles."

Troesh explained how the Wyoming National Guard weekend force split into teams to ensure they had additional firefighter coverage during training exercises conducted on Camp Guernsey.

The Joint Operations Center in Cheyenne also hosted a tabletop exercise featuring Camp Guernsey, Army Guard Directorates, AASF, Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Forestry, Casper Dispatch, Platte County Fire Warden, WOHS, National Weather Service, and other valuable partners.

It was a great display of community relationship-building.

"The exercise was created to share an understanding and unified response to fire incidents on Camp Guernsey," said Troesh.

Additionally, the Camp Guernsey staff hosted a meeting with community partners from Platte County to rehearse the response to a large fire in the training area, ensuring they applied lessons learned from the last fire season.

The staff continued to further their efforts by implementing an Incident Command System standard operating procedure to ensure effective communication. They also integrated responding resources under shared operating procedures. This unified command of incidents was developed and implemented in coordination with the Platte County Fire Warden.

"We have taken a critical look at mitigating risk and utilizing high-fire danger munitions," said Troesh. "Camp Guernsey is implementing further controls to ensure we are not taking unnecessary risks during peak fire weather."

With procedural updates and coordination with the Army Aviation Facility, they now have aviation assets with firefighting bambi buckets on standby during the anticipated high fire danger activities.

"Guernsey's community has always been a grateful host to the service men and women who train at Camp Guernsey," Troesh said.

"We are proud of our longstanding partnership with the leaders and community members. And are dedicated to continuing an open dialogue."



Partnerships

(top right) Tunisia Maj. Wagdi Nehdi, Logistical Commander of the Tunisian Army, observes maintenance procedures performed by U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 Craig Krantz, a Motor Officer for the 960th Brigade Support Battalion, Wyoming Army National Guard, in Sheridan, Wyo., May 17, 2022, on a State Partnership Program visit. The purpose of the SPP is to enhance military ties and strengthen partnerships with countries worldwide. The Wyoming National Guard partnered with the African nation of Tunisia in 2004 and continues to further their relationship with educational exchanges like these.

(U.S. Air National Guard photo by Jacqueline Marshall)



Second Annual Educator Leader Rendezvous

08.04.2022 | STORY & PHOTOS BY SGT KRISTINA KRANZ



Camp Guernsey, Joint Training Center, held the 2nd Annual Educator Leadership Rendezvous on Aug. 2-4. The ELR is a three-day event that brings together Wyoming teachers, counselors, and principals from across the state to learn about the military. In addition, educators learn leadership and culture-building strategies from this event through a military lens.

“Hosting Wyoming educators is a highlight of the summer for us. Our partnership with the Department of Education takes center stage during this event. We love showcasing our various mission sets and training capabilities while connecting individual Guardsmen with the community leaders who care for Wyoming youth daily,” said Maj. Gen. Gregory Porter, adjutant general for the Wyoming National Guard. “They influence our future Airmen and Soldiers, and this event allows our educators to experience firsthand the National Guard and our role as the Sword and Shield.”

The ELR is a partnership between the Wyoming Department of Education, the Wyoming Army National Guard, and the Wyoming Air National Guard.

The event is an opportunity for professional networking among educators across the state. One of the goals is to build morale and resiliency among educators in the field.

For educators, the ELR is open to Wyoming District Teachers of the Year, principals, counselors, and other educators that are leaders in their schools. In addition, any military member, regardless of rank or occupation, can participate in the ELR. The plethora of experience, different backgrounds, and different career fields all further submit to what ELR is trying to accomplish, according to Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey McClary, a recruiter for the Wyoming Air National Guard.

“The overall goal of the ELR is to help build a partnership between the military and our educators,” said Robin Grandpre, project and performance manager for the Department of Education.

“It helps build a stronger community of students for the future.”

The idea behind the event is to strengthen the bond between educators and the military to help meet



the state's goal of ensuring all Wyoming students are college, career, and military-ready. In addition, the knowledge educators gain from this event can be passed on to their students, who might add the military as another viable path following high school.

"I think this event helps to break down some of the stigmas surrounding the military and gives the educators a little taste of what the military is like," said Grandpre. "This is so they can take back great stories and recommendations for their students."

The event asks educators to get comfortable with being uncomfortable. Which is something that their students go through every day in the classroom. This event is a unique way to showcase the military without simply telling educators about it.

Assigned to six squads, 20 educators and 11 military members made up this year's participants. Their squad leaders included an Army National Guard member and an Air National Guard member. Squad leaders helped guide participants through challenging events as a team.

To complete individual events, participants had to model camaraderie, selfless service, and problem-solving, all essential aspects of leadership.

"This event will challenge our education leaders to the assumptions and perceptions about the intersection of a life in the military and the purpose of leading a classroom," said Brian Schroeder, Wyoming Superintendent of Public Instruction. "Leaders are teachers, and teachers are leaders. The activities our educators will experience alongside our men and women in uniform will open minds and lift spirits."

The participants were able to experience events that ranged from learning about different aircraft in the military, including catching a ride in a UH-60 Black Hawk, rappelling down a cliff-side, using military weapon systems, and as a finale, competing in a paintball event in an urban combat setting.



Civil Support Team Trains in Tunisia

07.15.2022 | STORY & PHOTOS BY SGT KRISTINA KRANZ



While training in Tunisia during August, the Wyoming National Guard's 84th Civil Support Team, based in Cheyenne, Wyo., witnessed their Tunisian counterparts spring to action in support of civilian authorities.

The 84th CST traveled to Tunisia to conduct several weeks of training supporting the National Guard's State Partnership Program. Wyoming has formally partnered with the African country of Tunisia since 2004.

While training alongside the 61st Engineer Regiment, Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Company, the 84th CST witnessed critical civil support between the Tunisian Ministry of Defense and the Tunisian Ministry of Health. The Tunisian CBRN Co. received an unknown substance from the Ministry of Health.

Tasked by the Ministry, the team analyzed and identified the substance as cocaine. The 84th CST was training with their Tunisian counterparts when the Tunisian Ministry of Health delivered 28 cellophane-wrapped bricks marked "TNT/Dynamite."

The 84th CST witnessed the process where the Tunisians correctly analyzed and identified the substance as cocaine. The Tunisian CBRN Co. demonstrated collaboration capabilities and efficiency using NATO-issued equipment to identify

an unknown substance successfully. Each equipment operator on the team demonstrated individual competency, highlighting their value to local agencies. The company identified approximately 32 kilograms of cocaine and removed it from distribution. The total street value estimated was over \$1 million.

“While I am certain our Tunisian partners would’ve made the identification without us, it was great for us to observe and validate their capabilities. Our team learned from a real-world scenario that reinforced the domestic mission of the National Guard,” said Maj. Casey Henry, commander of the 84th CST.

Training between Wyoming and Tunisian forces aligns with the Wyoming National Guard’s goal of maintaining a solid partnership with Tunisia. The Wyoming National Guard will benefit from this training by identifying violent extremist organizations



and their regional capabilities. Both parties benefit by building a trusting and productive relationship and sharing best practices.

“Working with our Tunisian partners was an outstanding opportunity for the 84th Civil Support Team. We learned from them and tried to leave them with a few of our best practices,” said Henry. “I’m impressed with their professionalism and look forward to future training opportunities with them.”

The partnership significantly benefits the stabilization of a legitimate military within northern Africa, where Tunisia has one of the few viable democracies.

“Our Tunisian partners are in a daily fight with enemies of a stable government and immediately put tactics, techniques, and procedural changes into practice to save lives,” said Brig. Gen. David Pritchett, director of the Joint Staff for the Wyoming National Guard. Pritchett was in Tunisia observing the training.

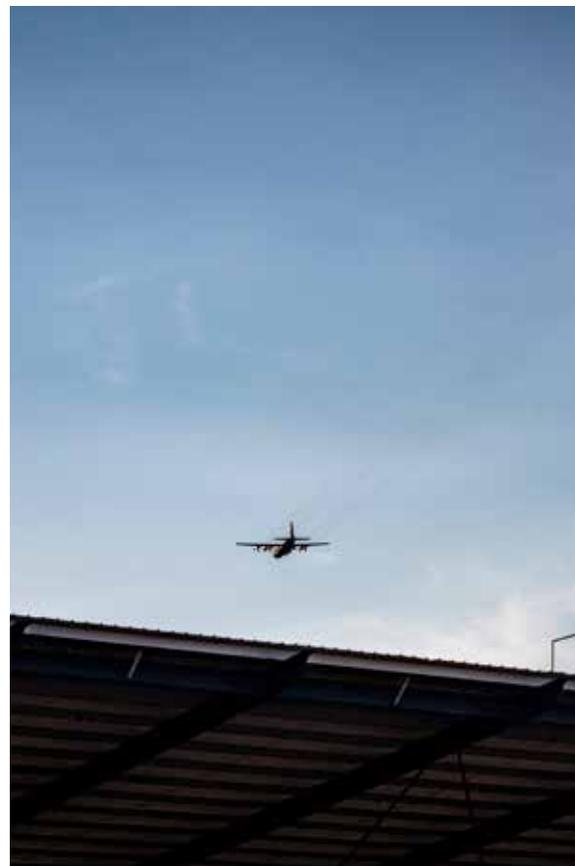
The 84th CST’s mission is to support civil authorities in Wyoming as a domestic CBRN resource. Each member’s highly specialized training makes the CST an asset to Wyoming communities. They have the skills and equipment to identify CBRN substances, assess current and projected threats, advise on response measures, and assist with procuring additional resources.



Not our First Rodeo

07.30.2022 | PHOTOS BY MSGT JON ALDERMAN & SGT KRISTINA KRANZ

National Guard members made a big showing at local rodeos across the state this summer. Showing off their cowboy spirit in everything from music, color guards, flyovers, canon kick offs and cornhole games. The Wyoming National Guard proved that even when it comes to fun in the sun a the rodeo, we are always ready and always there.







The Engineers partner with Laramie County Shooting Complex

06.16.2022 | STORY & PHOTOS BY SGT KRISTINA KRANZ

Soldiers of the 133rd Engineer Company of the Wyoming Army National Guard, out of Laramie, partnered with the Laramie County Shooting Complex, a 330-yard berm, as part of Innovative Readiness Training, which aligns with mission-essential task training for units in the Wyoming Guard. The IRT is a massive benefit to the communities the Guard serves.

“An IRT provides a service for the community and the Soldiers and helps to increase our partnerships,” said Capt. Ethan Carswell, commander of the 133rd. “It showcases to the community we’re working with that we are willing to help them with projects they may have and are struggling to complete.”

Innovative Readiness Training provides mission-essential training for Wyoming National Guard units while building strong partnerships with our neighbors by applying military personnel and their unique skill sets to assist with worthy community needs.

Berm movement and placement mimic building berms for fighting positions for both vehicles and Soldiers. According to Carswell, it meets the intent for understanding how to move berms and the dimensions required.

For the Soldiers of the 133rd, it falls under survivor-ability operation training as a mission-essential task. IRT projects help increase readiness and ensure the company is ready to respond when called. The project also serves as a benefit to the community. Before this, the shooting complex’s most extended range for rifle usage was 100 yards.

“A lot of people like to be able to shoot at similar distances that they will be hunting. Some are comfortable shooting at 100 yards and using ballistic tables to figure out where they’d





be at longer ranges. Others like actually doing it. So we're offering this upon completion to our longer-range shooters," said Keith Tast, Director of the Laramie County Shooting Sports Complex.

"It's a benefit to everybody. To the unit, to us as a business, county entity, and certainly to all customers."

The completion of the berm is just the first phase. There is still work ahead to complete the entire lane. Therefore, there is a distinct possibility that the engineers will return to complete the project.

According to IRT Director Chief Warrant Officer 5 Doug Drost, a Blue Sky still needs to be added, like a lattice or sun shade, to eliminate the possibility of bullets from going up and a firing point.

"We have the capability with the engineers to help with all of that. It hasn't been asked for yet, and we have to ensure we have the assets, but this project could continue," Drost says.

The Soldiers of the 133rd are proud of their accomplishments and look forward to future projects for the communities of Wyoming. They head to Guernsey in July to complete other tasks and then to Arlington for a project with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, working in a wildlife habitat management area.



Cheyenne Discovery Day at 153rd Airlift Wing

09.16.2022 | STORY SSGT LEE MURPHY & PHOTOS BY MSGT JON ALDERMAN



The Wyoming Air National Guard held its second annual “Discovery Day” on September 16, 2022, in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

This event is held every year to bring young people from around the state and introduce them to the vibrant STEM field here.

The tri-state event hosted approximately 800 students and showcased all the opportunities that Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics studies can create in Wyoming.

“It’s our pride and our passion to try and make sure that our students leave the district able to contribute to society”, said Lindsey Stutheit, a Career & Technical Education Coordinator in Laramie County School District.

“If we don’t work really hard on that STEM engagement, we’re going to lose some of

those opportunities for kids, so this is huge in helping us make sure they are ready for the future.”

Representatives from NASA, United Airlines, The University of Wyoming, Black Hills Energy and more were in attendance, showing students how they too can take flight through STEM.

“STEM is so diverse. Yes, you can be a pilot, yes, you can be a flight attendant, you can be a dispatcher, you can be anything you want to be. You can be an engineer, or you can work on planes if you want to,” said Kathy McKinnon, a Support Representative in the Chief Pilots Office of United Airlines.

And students are seeing these opportunities.

“It definitely gets me more excited about what I can do after school,” said Emylee Rea, a student at Central High School in



Cheyenne. "This gives me lots of opportunities and better tracks that I can follow after school."

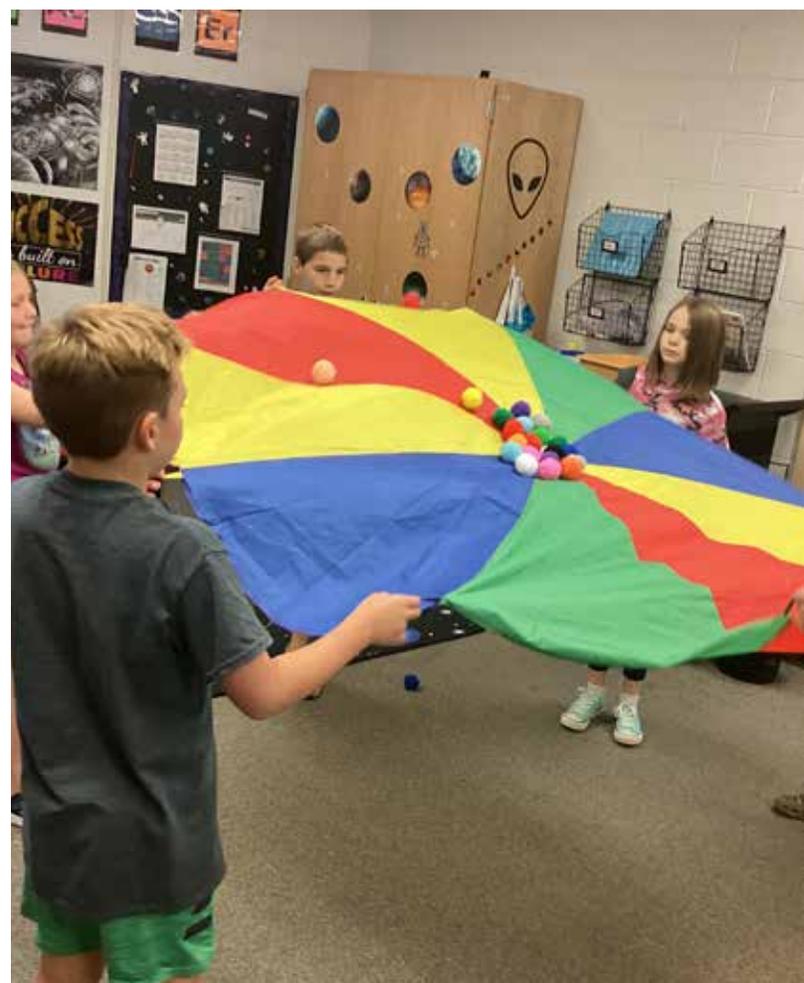
For both the Guard and business leaders in Wyoming, it's about investing in the future of the state, and highlighting all possibilities it offers.

"We just want people to have pride in Wyoming," said Lt. Jeremiah Singleton, the Director of Operations with the 153d Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

"Have pride in the state. All the cool stuff there is to do in the world, you can do it right here in Wyoming."

To the future thinkers and leaders of the state of Wyoming, find your wings through STEM and take flight!





WYOMING STARBASE ACADEMY

Our mission is to provide a team-centered, goal-oriented environment that encourages and motivates at-risk youth to explore Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics STEM education and careers further.



Wyoming STARBASE Academy is a Department of Defense Youth Program operated in partnership with the Wyoming National Guard and Wyoming Military Department since 1994. It is located in Cheyenne, Wyoming, at the Raper Armory; prior to that, it was located at the Wyoming Air National Guard Base.

This premier educational program serves, free of charge, fifth-grade public, private, and home-school students in Laramie County, Wyoming. Through teamwork, students participate in challenging “hands-on, minds-on” activities in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Students also interact with military personnel to explore careers and connect with the “real world.” The program provides students with 20-25 hours of exemplary instruction, using a common core curriculum that meets or exceeds the national standards. Wyoming STARBASE activities include several hands-on science labs, activities centered on the Engineering Design Process, mapping activities with maps specifically designed for the STARBASE Program by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, designing and launching straw rockets, and working with the CREO Elements/Pro Computer-Aided Drafting software,

a software program used by several of the nation’s leading manufacturing companies.

The academy focuses on serving student groups historically under-represented in STEM careers when they enter the workforce, such as students from high-poverty and rural areas.



CONGRATULATIONS CLASSES OF 2022!

LOCAL LEADERS LOOK THROUGH THE LENS OF THE MILITARY

PHOTOS BY SGT. KRISTINA KRANZ



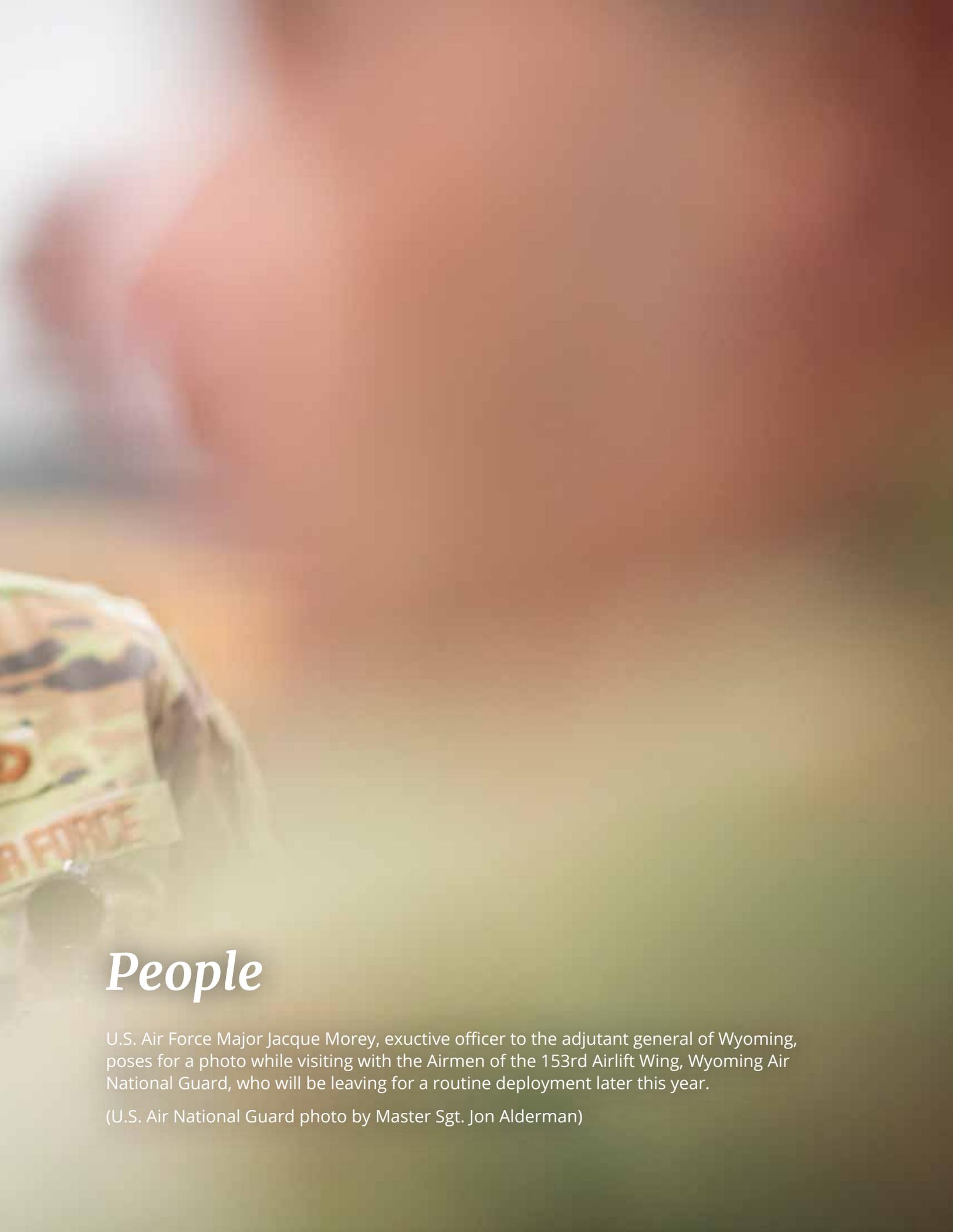


The Wyoming National Guard hosted several Leadership events in 2022. Those who attended had the opportunity to tour the Wyoming National Guard facilities for the Military part of their tour. The program aims to enhance the leadership skills of local leaders. Those who complete the program continue to lead their community and the State of Wyoming.

"It's really impactful to learn the anecdotes and metrics about the services you provide for the country and the things you do globally. But I think the human aspect, seeing you as individuals, hearing your stories, it becomes much more relevant," said Quinn Goldhammer, one of the 2022 year's class members.







People

U.S. Air Force Major Jacque Morey, executive officer to the adjutant general of Wyoming, poses for a photo while visiting with the Airmen of the 153rd Airlift Wing, Wyoming Air National Guard, who will be leaving for a routine deployment later this year.

(U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Jon Alderman)

1,129 Full Time Employees

191 Army AGR 178 Army Tech/T5 273 Air AGR 138 Air Tech/T5 235 State

WYOMING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

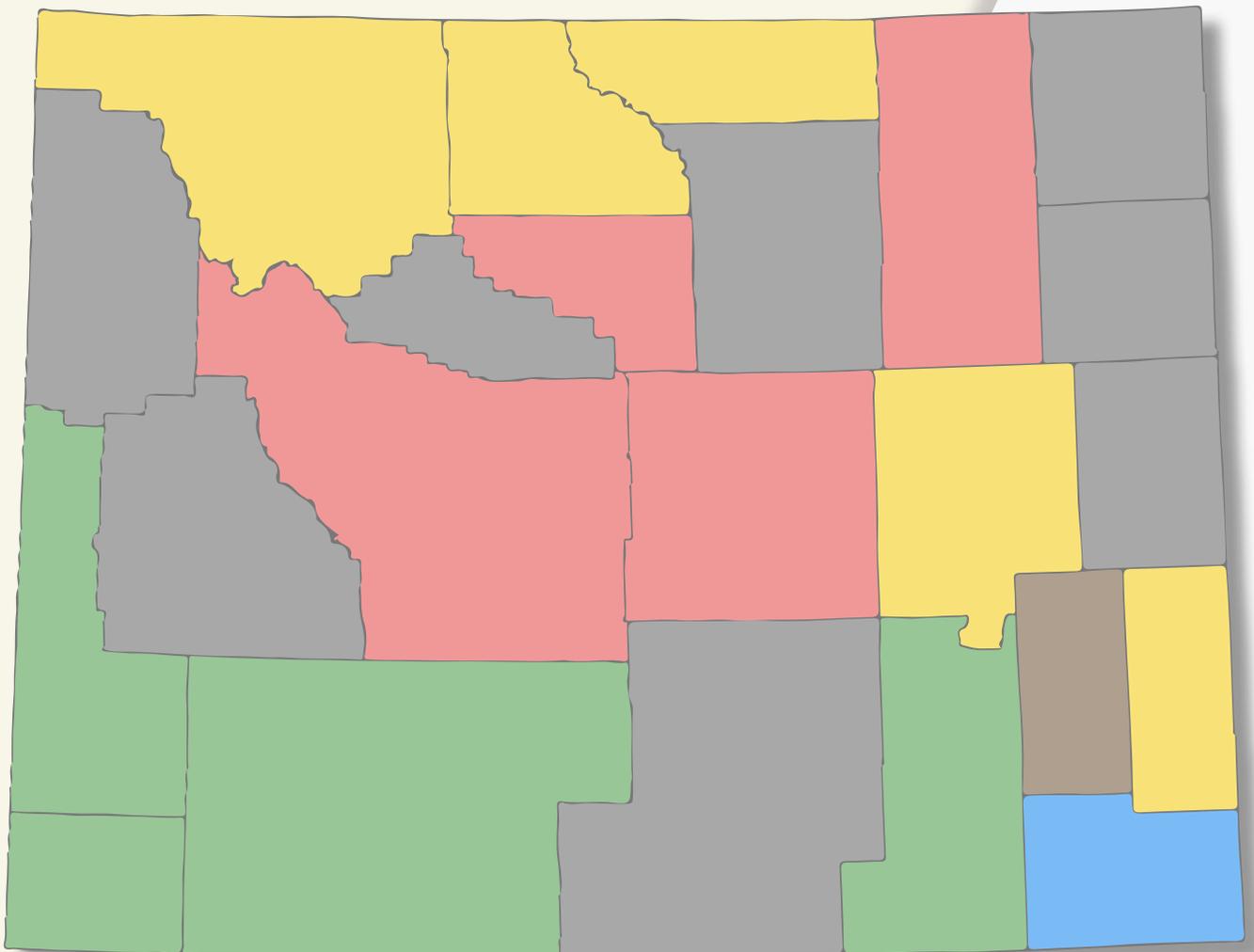
members live in 23 Wyoming Counties 31 States

WYOMING AIR NATIONAL GUARD

members live in 19 Wyoming Counties 38 States

\$149.23 Million budget

\$139.9m Federal \$9.33m State



WYOMING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD | CHEYENNE

Wyoming Army National Guard - BG Steve Alkire, CW5 Doug Drost, SCSM Lindsay Schmidt
 Joint Force Headquarters - MAJ Jacob Arnold, 1SG Adrienne Gibbs
 Wyoming Medical Detachment - CPT Ariel Hunt, 1SG David Vanderpool
 84th Civil Support Team - MAJ Casey Henry, 1SG Aaron Benson
 115th Field Artillery Brigade - COL Alex Fisher, CSM Jason Spaulding | HHB - CPT Jeff Gradowski, 1SG Johnny Taylor
 148th Signal Company - CPT Paul Ortega, 1SG James Haight
 Recruiting and Retention Battalion - MAJ Lara Taylor, CSM Edmundo Herrera
 G Company, 1st Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment - CPT Dustin Wambach, 1SG Andrew Monnin

960TH BRIGADE SUPPORT BATTALION | SHERIDAN (HQ), LOVELL, POWELL, DOUGLAS, TORRINGTON

LTC William Lindmier, CSM Timothy Smith | HSC - CPT Justin Dodd, 1SG Chancy Elkins
 920th Forward Support Company - 1LT Wyatt Wingett, 1SG Wilder Hatch

94TH TROOP COMMAND | LARAMIE (HQ), ROCK SPRINGS, WHEATLAND, EVANSTON, AFTON

LTC Marko Rubich (battalion), CSM James Swingholm (company)
 133rd Engineer Company - CPT Ethan Carswell, 1SG Stacey Hiser
 197th Public Affairs Detachment - 1LT Chelby Rush, SFC Ashley Motley
 67th Army Band - CW2 Brett White, 1SG Charles Olivas
 C Company, 1st Battalion, 297th Infantry Regiment - 1LT Alyssa Brenner, 1SG William Corkins
 D Company, 1st Battalion, 297th Infantry Regiment - CPT Eric Rush, SGM Curtis Jacobs

CAMP GUERNSEY TRAINING CENTER | GUERNSEY

COL Toby Alkire, CSM Bill Spaulding
 213th Regiment - COL Jakob Norman (regiment), CSM Katherine Zweifel
 1st Modular Training Battalion - LTC Cole Kelly, 1SG Ishmael Campbell

2-300TH FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT | CASPER (HQ), GILLETTE, LANDER

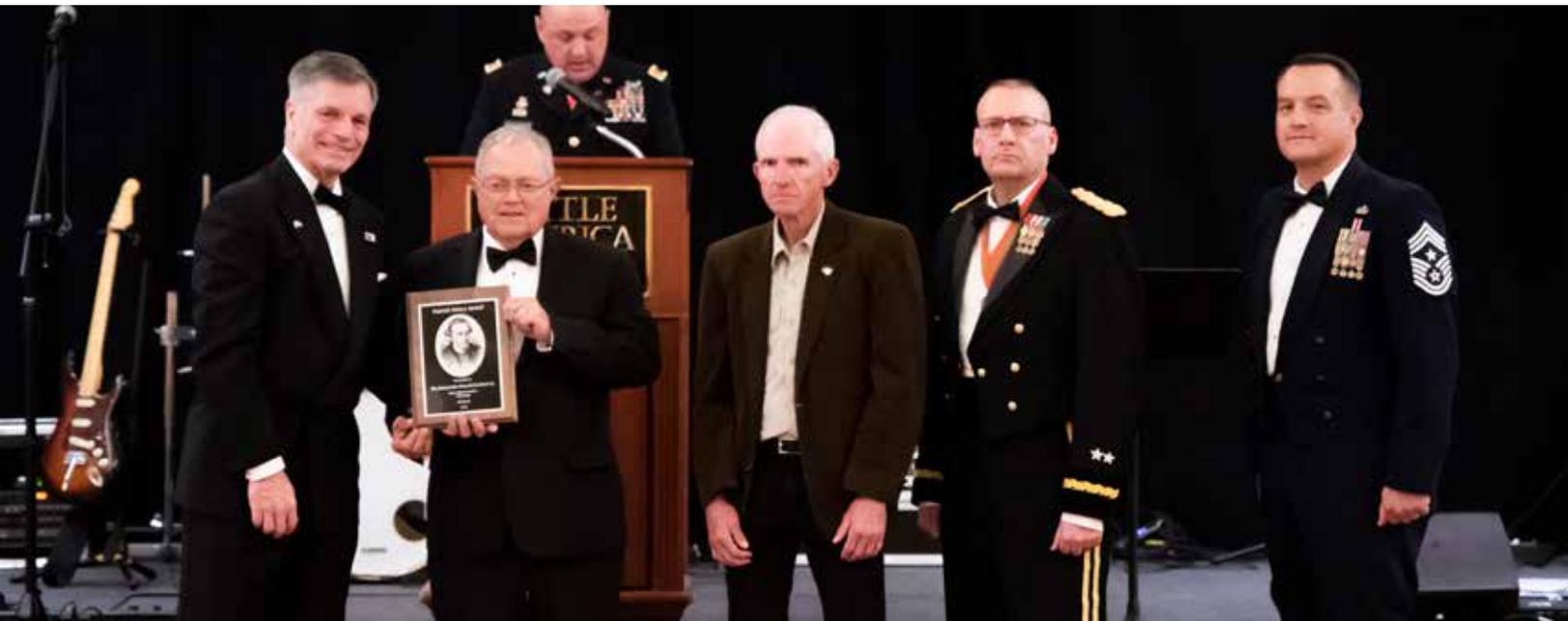
MAJ Michael Kingman, CSM Spencer Jolley | HHB- CPT August Wilson, 1SG Christopher Upton
 A Battery, 2-300th - 1LT Jacob Brabender, 1SG Dale Fowler
 B Battery, 2-300th - CPT Andrew Skretteberg, 1SG Durward Jones

WYOMING AIR NATIONAL GUARD | CHEYENNE

Wyoming Air National Guard - Col Barry Deibert, Col Jeremy Schaad, CMSgt Douglas Rhodes
 153rd Airlift Wing - Col Barry Deibert, CMSgt Darren Nogle, SMSgt David Sutter
 153rd Comptroller Flight - Lt Col Freddie McMillan, SMSgt Carrie Galaz
 153rd Operations Group - Col TJ Gagnon, CMSgt Sarah Brewster
 187th Airlift Squadron - Lt Col Jonathan Holland, MSgt Douglas Benton
 187th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron - Lt Col Jason Arndt, CMSgt Thor Rasmussen
 153rd Operations Support Squadron - Lt Col Jeremy Burton, SMSgt Todd Davis
 243rd Air Traffic Control Squadron - Capt Daniel Hochhalter, SMSgt Gary Purnell
 153rd Maintenance Group - Col Gary Monroe, CMSgt Janna Holcomb and CMSgt Scott Wagner
 153rd Maintenance Squadron - Lt Col Carl Johansen, CMSgt Christopher Carlson and CMSgt Larry Quinn
 153rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron - Lt Col Naomi Donovan, CMSgt John Moritz
 153rd Maintenance Operations Flight - Maj Josh Eveslage, SMSgt Laura Brow
 153rd Mission Support Group - Col Nicole Chavez, CMSgt Erik Smith
 153rd Logistics Readiness Squadron - Lt Col Tina Tweedy, CMSgt Jesse Johnson and CMSgt Christopher Lujan
 153rd Civil Engineer Squadron - Lt Col Matthew Sturtevant, SMSgt John Deese
 153rd Force Support Squadron - Maj Shelia Sells, CMSgt Denise Hondel
 153rd Security Forces Squadron - Capt Terrence Bell, CMSgt Jennifer Lovering
 153rd Communications Flight - Maj John Jasper, CMSgt Emily Collins
 253rd Command & Control Group - Col Jason Allen, CMSgt Robert Merrill
 153rd Command & Control Squadron - Lt Col Tonja Moon, CMSgt David Ziegelbauer
 253rd Support Squadron - Lt Col Wendy Allison, SMSgt Mark Ramler
 253rd Security Forces Squadron - Maj Travis Huntley, SMSgt Michael Coughenour
 153rd Medical Group - Col Dan Perala, CMSgt Theresa Sheheen

* The roles and titles reflect the 2022 calendar year

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS!



National Guard Association Awardees receive the **Theodore Roosevelt Leadership Award** at the 2023 Governor Reception. From the top left, Capt. Jeffrey Gradowski, operations officer of the 960th Brigade Support Battalion, was awarded for exceptional leadership. Chief Warrant Officer Eli Lilley distinguished himself as the WY Army National Guard's Warrant Officer of the Year in 2021. 2nd Lt. Clint Brower also received the Theodore Roosevelt Leadership Award, which was presented at the NGAUS conference earlier in the year. Bottom from, Representative Donald Burkhard, Jr., received the Patrick Henry Award for his continued support and partnership with the WY National Guard.



MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS

67th Army Band plays with Wheatland High School

04.21.2022 | STORY BY MSGT JACQUELINE MARSHALL & PHOTOS BY SFC JOSEPH BURNS

Soldiers of the 67th Army Band, “Wyoming’s Own,” often serve as liaisons between the military and the community, using music to educate others about the Army.

Members of the 67th Army Band told that story and shared their music by playing in a concert with Wheatland High School Band students on April 21, 2022.

Throughout the day, the Army band visited with students to promote music education and appreciation, according to Sgt. Evan Bradley, the band’s conductor.

“By playing with the Army band today, the students learned that music doesn’t have to stop after graduation,” said Sgt. Bradley. He continued, “So many Soldiers had conversations with students about music-making opportunities in their adult life. Whether in the Army National Guard or a community band.”

The interaction was a mutually positive exchange. For many of the Soldiers, the day allowed them to return to their roots. “It reminded them of where they came from,” said Bradley.

The 67th Army Band plans to continue these exchanges in the community, not just in Wheatland but throughout the entire state. To high schools and local community colleges to further educate the community. “The push will also aid recruitment efforts,” Bradley explained. Ultimately, it gives the Soldiers a chance to showcase the unique training and capabilities of the 67th Army Band. “You can do something you are already good at and serve your country at the same time.”





“Many Americans don’t know how involved the Guard is in every aspect of a natural disaster and emergency response. But when it hits home, people realize, wow, it’s one of the great things our National Guard can do.”

Chief of the National Guard Bureau Visits Wyoming

07.29.2022 | STORY BY CW4 NATHAN GALLOWAY & PHOTOS BY MSGT JON ALDERMAN AND SRA KYLEE WARREN

Army Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, the 29th Chief of the National Guard Bureau, and Senior Enlisted Advisor Tony Whitehead, Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, accepted an invitation from Maj. Gen. Greg Porter, Wyoming’s Adjutant General, to visit Wyoming Soldiers and Airmen in Cheyenne the last weekend of July.

Hokanson and Whitehead traveled to Cheyenne with several objectives in mind and with a full schedule of engagements. First and foremost, he wanted to interact with Wyoming Army and Air Guard Members and Recruiters for a firsthand understanding of how service members are faring.

“I’m the channel of communications between the 54 National Guard Headquarters and the Department of Defense, and in order to tell that story, I’ve got to visit with our folks and see what’s really going on. And frankly, I’m here to help sell the Guard story

because there’s so much we do every single day that many Americans are unaware of.” Hokanson said.



Though Hokanson and his team’s time in Wyoming was short, they were able to accomplish a lot of meaningful interactions. From meeting with delegates from Wyoming’s sister country of Tunisia and the State Partnership Program managers, to conducting professional development discussions with Wyoming National Guard senior leaders, and engaging with Wyoming’s civic leaders and elected officials. In addition, Hokanson served as Grand Marshall for the final Cheyenne Frontier Days parade fully experiencing the Spirit of Cheyenne up close - while attending some limited Cheyenne Frontier Days events.

While meeting with Wyoming’s top Army and Air National Guard recruiters, Hokanson emphasized the importance of welcoming everyone, with or without experience or exposure to the United

States military, to avoid the growing concern that military service is becoming a family business. Promotion and communication of the benefits and opportunities offered by the National Guard are essential in this ongoing effort as we continue to increase our accessions pool. He applauded the individual approach and care given to recruiting applicants as a strength unique to the National Guard that must continue.

Hokanson engaged in an open question-and-answer session with several senior officers providing insights and guidance on various subjects. The officers discussed flexibility in using limited resources allotted to Wyoming, current and future organization structure, ongoing C-130 modernization, and the need for authentic leaders who can solve complex problems, employ critical thinking, and who are not unnecessarily risk-averse.

The Tunisian delegation comprising Haneene Tajouri Bessassi, first female Tunisian Ambassador to the United States, and Senior Col. Mohammed Ben Salah, Tunisian Defense Attaché, met with Hokanson while in Cheyenne. They received a briefing from the 84th Civil Support Team commander on a recent training exercise in Tunisia, enjoyed a good discussion about Wyoming's State Partnership Program with Tunisia, and the value this partnership delivers to Tunisian military service members.

"The partnership we saw today with the Tunisian Ambassador, who talked about the value of the state partnership program and those relationships, just adds power and strength to our national defense strategy," Hokanson said. "They're familiar with the value that the state partnership brings and its enduring relationships. Our national defense strategy is very clear, allies and partners are absolutely critical to us. And they're one of the great advantages the United States has."

Hokanson also attended a reception hosted by Gov. Mark Gordon, where he met and visited with several senior civic leaders and elected state officials about the benefits of the National Guard service in Wyoming.

"Many Americans don't know how involved the Guard is in every aspect of a natural disaster and emergency response. But when it hits home, people realize, wow, it's one of the great things our National Guard can do. But in everything we do, it's the partnership at the local level," said Hokanson.

"We've got armories in all these communities, our soldiers and airmen, their friends and their co-workers. They work alongside their first responders, their state emergency managers, the FEMA regional managers and because we work together all the time, if anything happens in our communities, we can help. If it's an emergency and they require our assistance, we're right there."





WE ARE THE WYOMING MILITARY DEPARTMENT

With close to 3,000 Soldiers, Airmen, and civilians in its workforce, the Wyoming Military Department is a vibrant, diverse, and motivated group committed to “Ride for the Brand” and providing ready forces to safeguard Wyoming and protect the nation while adding value to our communities.

These Soldiers and Airmen are ready to answer the president’s or governor’s call. To highlight these amazing employees of the Wyoming Military Department, we showcase them in photos throughout 2022. The men and women pictured are from every employee group and perform various duties.

They continue to build cohesive teams while achieving end-strength objectives. Strong, cohesive teams that reinforce the warrior ethos, build resiliency, reduce corrosive behavior and enable winning in battle are critical.

We are the Wyoming Military Department.



Wyoming Military Department's New 'Integrated Primary Prevention' Team

10.22.2022 | STORY BY SGT KRISTINA KRANZ



PHOTO BY MSGT JACQUELINE MARSHALL

The Wyoming Military Department recently created an "Integrated Primary Prevention" team to prevent harmful behaviors and build cohesive teams within the organization. Headed by Mrs. Michelle Mulberry, this team is part of a national strategy by the National Guard Bureau to care for our most important asset in the Guard, our People.

The team partners with agencies in Wyoming like the Department of Health, the governor's office, and the internal care teams for both the Army and Air National Guard and will research current trends in our communities. Then, the team will use data from those trends to create preventive programs to address issues before they become a crisis.

"The overall goal for this program is to collaborate and build relationships in the state to get ahead of suicides, sexual assaults, domestic violence, substance abuse, everything that can potentially harm our Soldiers and Airmen," says Mulberry.

Mulberry has taken on this new role after 23 years as a registered nurse. Eleven of those years were in the emergency department. Although the nurses there were not mental health nurses, they had to work closely with Mental Health to make sure patients were safe and received the resources to get the care they needed.

After working in the emergency department, Mulberry worked at Veterans Affairs, where she worked in mobile clinics and Telehealth. Here, she didn't typically see anyone in a crisis. However, at the VA, it was quite the opposite.

Veterans were more likely to be proactive in seeking mental health treatment because they could do so from the comfort and privacy of their homes.

"The VA is, and has been, years ahead in Telehealth," says Mulberry. "That's huge. I think that had helped our veterans seek the

help they needed that they wouldn't have done before if they'd had to go in person and walk into the mental health clinic."

A large part of what the integrated primary prevention team will strive to do is to change the stigma of seeing a mental health provider and seek to make it part of routine health exams.

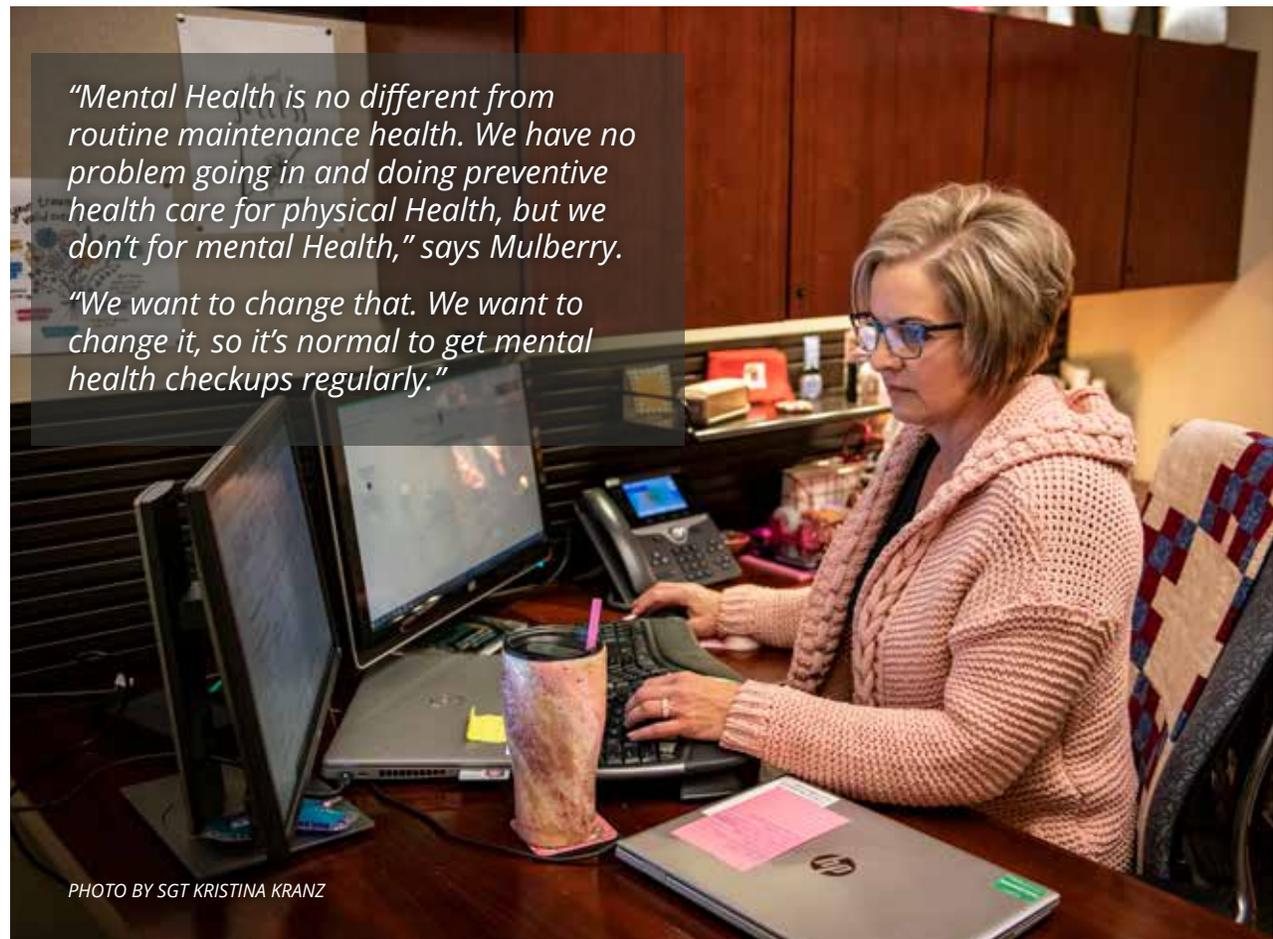
"Mental Health is no different from routine maintenance health. We have no problem going in and doing preventive health care for physical Health, but we don't for mental Health," says Mulberry.

"We want to change that. We want to change it, so it's normal to get mental health checkups regularly."

The prevention team will benefit the WYMD and the WYNG by tracking the trends in our communities, especially those with armories, figuring out whom the team can work with within those communities, and what resources are available to our Soldiers and Airmen.

The National Guard Bureau allocated additional funding for every state to have a prevention workforce team. Currently, Mulberry is one of a team of four in Wyoming. In addition, there will be two prevention specialists, which are onboard in November, and one legal adviser.

"I'm excited about it. I'm excited that we are doing this nationally and that we're all going to be working together to make ourselves a better force," Mulberry says.





WY AIRMEN AND SOLDIERS WIN

04.08.2022 | STORY BY WYNG PUBLIC AFFAIRS & COURTESY PHOTOS

Wyoming National Guard's very own Master Sgt. Jacqueline Marshall, Technical Sgt. Jon Alderman, Senior Airman Kylee Warren, and Sgt. Roy Uptain for winning awards in the annual National Guard Bureau's media contest for their work in 2021. The winners were announced in March 2022.

The three Airmen placed in the Chief Master Sgt. Douglas W. Morrell Public Affairs Media Awards competition. This yearly Air Force competition is for excellence and outstanding achievements in furthering Air Force, Space Force, and Department of Defense communication objectives.

One Soldier placed in the Gen. Keith L. Ware Communications Awards competition. The annual competition recognizes Soldiers and Department of the Army civilian employees for excellence in achieving the objectives of the Army Public Affairs Program.

The WYNG is incredibly proud of you all. Your hard work and dedication have paid off—these individuals completed against all 54 National Guard units.

In addition, the Wyoming Military Department Joint Force Headquarter's Public Affairs Office placed in three categories in the DoD Defense Media Merit Awards Competition, where they competed against all branches of the military and civilian government agencies in the DoD.

These awards highlight the remarkable talent of our JFHQ and Wing Public Affairs; and 197th Public Affairs Detachment.

Their outstanding work continues to help showcase our Wyoming National Guard and share the great work our Soldiers, Airmen, and civilian employees are doing nationally.





NGB AND DOD MEDIA AWARDS

AIR FORCE CMSGT DOUGLAS W. MORRELL WINNERS:

TSgt. Jon Alderman | 1st Place - Military Photographer of the Year, 3rd Place - News Photo, 3rd Place - Portrait

MSgt. Jacqueline Marshall | 1st Place - Video Story, 1st Place - Video Series, 1st Place - Video Documentation/B-roll, 2nd Place - Video Spot

Senior Airman Kylee Warren: 1st Place - New Photographer of the Year

GEN. KEITH L. WARE ARMY COMMUNICATIONS WINNER: Sgt. Roy Uptain: 3rd Place - Feature Video

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MEDIA MERIT AWARDS COMPETITION WINNERS:

WYNG JFHQ Public Affairs Team - 1st Place Publication "Cowboy Guard 2020."

WYNG JFHQ Public Affairs Team - 2nd Place Short-Form Video Production "Report It" Army/Air Safety Office.

WYNG JFHQ Public Affairs Team - 3rd Place Long-Form Video Production "Welcome Home, WY Veterans Day Celebration."



AIRMAN REPRESENTS THE COWBOY STATE

05.12.2022 | STORY BY MSGT MARSHALL & PHOTOS BY MSGT JON ALDERMAN & COURTESY PHOTOS



The Wyoming National Guard is full of amazing Airmen. However, one Wyoming Airman, Tech. Sgt. Carlie Dickson was selected as one of the best-noncommissioned officers in the country and will represent the Cowboy State at the national level.

Dickson represents the eight-state region of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, and Wyoming. She is moving on to compete in the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year competition. Nominees are judged on leadership ability, job performance, community involvement, and self-improvement efforts.

Dickson is part of the 187th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, 153rd Airlift Wing. She is originally from Aurora, Colorado, and currently calls Fort Collins home, where she loves mountain biking. She joined the guard nine years

ago to continue the family tradition of serving and to travel the world to experience different cultures firsthand. As an Aeromedical Evacuation Technician, more commonly known as an emergency medical technician, she primarily flies on C-130s, C-17s, and KC-135s to transport sick and injured patients to higher echelons care during peacetime and wartime.

Dickson is what we would call a traditional guardsman or weekend warrior. However, when this citizen Airman is not flying and saving lives, she is fighting fires and continuing to save lives as a full-time Firefighter/Paramedic.

"Many of my skills as an aeromedical evacuation technician can translate to my civilian career as a Firefighter/Paramedic and vice versa. As an NCO, I help mentor young Airmen the same way I can precept new paramedic students in the field," said Dickson. What has surprised

Dickson the most about being in the guard is the delicate balance between being an Airman and maintaining a civilian career.

"In the long run, I've learned you must find your purpose. Not only personally but professionally to maintain a long-term healthy balance between the two," Dickson says.

When speaking with Dickson, she explained how her most memorable military moment involved a team of highly trained airmen in their respective career fields.

"Our crew won the 2017 Lt. Gen. William H. Tunner Award for the most outstanding airlift crew in the United States Air Force. Actions during this specific mission ultimately played a role in the Abraham Accords Middle East peace deal a few years later," she said.

Dickson enjoys serving, and her favorite part of service is the people of the Wyoming Air National Guard.



"At the end of the day, we cannot accomplish our mission without people," she said. No matter what happens at the national OAY competition, Dickson is a prominent role model for others and has achieved a lot in just nine years.





Staying Connected with Communities

09.20. 2022 | STORY BY SFC ASHLEY MOTLEY & PHOTOS BY SGT. ROY UPTAIN

A key component of serving as the Sword and Shield is staying connected with citizens and communities for which we serve and protect. Historically, the National Guard has been involved in the Wyoming communities since 1870, and this year was no different.

Though, not everything soldiers do is strictly business. This summer, many units participated in varying events aimed at staying connected with the communities we live and serve in.

Soldiers from the 115th Field Artillery Brigade Headquarters and the 148th Signal Company participated in a food drive with a unique delivery mechanism.

The headquarters staff took collections of donated food and then dispersed the food into the soldiers rucksacks. From there they departed the Armory and headed down the 2.5 mile ruck to Cheyenne Element food pantry where they dropped off their load.





The 2-300th Field Artillery Battalion out of Casper hosted a community and family day at Beartrap campground on Casper mountain where they had equipment displays, ruck marches through the meadow and a barbecue.

"The family members, employers, and citizens in general have always been very supportive of our soldiers," said 1st Lt. Mathew Buchanan, Intel Officer for 2-300th Field Artillery Battalion.

"There will come a time when mission requirements pull a soldier away from family and civilian employment so it is important to invite them out to show them what we do and build that cohesive relationship."



THE STORY OF US

WYOMING'S FORGOTTEN BATTALION

11.01. 2022 STORY BY 1LT COLLIN NAKOS & PHOTOS FROM WYNG ARCHIVES



Soldiers from the 141st Tank Battalion training in Fort Campbell, KY, in September 1950, before heading to Korea.

The Wyoming Army National Guard has mobilized various units to fight the nation's wars. Throughout our century-and-a-half history, we have sent infantry, artillery, cavalry, aviation, engineer, and medical soldiers worldwide. However, we once had another kind of organization that is often overlooked in our history. That is our 141st Tank Battalion.

Wyoming gained the 141st Medium Tank Battalion on May 26, 1947. After six months of appointing officers, filling the ranks, and awaiting inspections, the unit received its federal recognition on January 2, 1948.

By 1949, the battalion and its companies had landed in their final homes: Laramie (HHC), Evanston (A Co.), Rock Springs (B Co.), Green River/Rawlins (C Co.), Afton (D Co.), and Wheatland (Service Co.).

The battalion had just finished its third annual training in the summer of 1950 at Camp Carson, Colorado when they received word that they were being called up for federal service due to the outbreak of the Korean War. The unit was officially ordered to active duty on September 11, 1950, and they began their departure to Fort Campbell, KY, two weeks later.

Of note is that Company A out of Evanston had five sets of brothers as well as a father-son duo in their ranks: Robert and William Kimball, Dennis and Ken Ottley, Jack and Robert Mathson, Vincent and Ellis Caldwell, Thomas and David Passey, and Francis Taylor Sr. and Jr. all departed with the battalion on September 24. 417 Wyoming soldiers of the 141st arrived in late September at Fort Campbell with their M4 Shermans, M4A3E8 Easy Eights, M24 Chaffees, and M32 ARVs. Over the following weeks, the unit received



over 150 new reservists, regular soldiers, draftees, and new M46 Patton Tanks, converting them from a medium tank battalion to a heavy tank battalion. Throughout the extensive training and field exercises, two members of the 141st lost their lives; Sgt. Robert G. Hartman of Laramie was killed in a training accident and Sgt. Edward T. Taucher of Rock Springs succumbed to heat exhaustion during an exercise.

As the Korean War escalated – particularly after the Chinese joined the fight alongside the North Koreans – the US and our allies badly needed replacements on the frontlines.



Sgt. George B. Hittner and fellow soldiers in Korea.

By September 1951, all but 170 men of the 141st had either volunteered or were pulled away from their units for Korea. Two of the Wyoming tankers were killed in action while overseas. Sgt. George B. Hittner, a tank commander under the 24th Infantry Division, was killed in a battle near Kumsong on October 16, 1951; he posthumously earned the Silver Star for his actions.

On October 27, Pfc. Donald Lee Dewees, assigned to the 7th Infantry Division, was killed by a mortar blast while attempting to hook a tow cable to a disabled tank in the Mundong-Ni Valley.

In April 1952, the 141st Heavy Tank Battalion was four months away from the end of their two-year federal service commitment; it was then that they were alerted for deployment to the Federal Republic of Germany. Wyoming tankers who extended their commitment arrived in Bremerhaven, Germany, on August 9, while the rest of the unit was redeployed back to Wyoming in September.

The 141st fell in under the 19th Armored Group. Stationed initially at Nelligen Kaserne, Stuttgart, Germany, they later moved to Fliegerhorst Kaserne near Hanau, where they remained in Germany for the rest of their time. The 141st's mission in Germany fell under the general NATO Cold War mission of West Germany occupation, deterring Soviet aggression from the east.

In November of 1953, the Regular Army took over the 141st, and most, if not all, of the remaining Wyoming Guardsmen, returned to their home stations in Wyoming.

Upon return, many of them were reclassified as artillerymen. They fell into the newly formed 351st Armored Field Artillery Battalion, which had already moved into the 141st's armories and absorbed the 141st



Sgt. George B. Hittner, tank commander, 24th Infantry Division *(Above)*

Pfc. Donald Lee Dewees, 7th Infantry Division *(Below)*





141st Tank Battalion Soldiers in Germany (Above)

tankers who did not deploy to Germany. The 141st remained in Germany as a Regular Army tank battalion until January 1955, when it was redesignated as the 899th Tank Battalion. The 141st was then returned to the Wyoming National Guard and deactivated effective January 17, 1955. During the six years and five months from 1947 to 1953 that the 141st belonged to Wyoming, they served their country in federal service for three years and one month; they spent 49 percent of their duration away from their home state.

The 141st Tank Battalion did not remain long as a Wyoming Army Guard unit; however, the unit and its men represented our state honorably during that short time.

Thank you to Retired Maj. William Saunders of the Wyoming National Guard Museum for providing much of the research used for this article.



Soldiers of the 141st Tank Battalion in Germany (Above)



PHOTO BY ALYSSA HINKLEY

The Wyoming Military Department's priority is strength however, it recently got an update.

After serving as our adjutant general for the last three years, Maj. Gen. Greg Porter made recent adjustments to the department's focus.

"Since 2019, I've asked our team to focus on strength. While I still believe that achieving 102% end strength is critical to our enduring success, I know that this goal can only be attained when we build and maintain cohesive teams," said General Porter.

"For that reason, I am updating my priority to Building Strength Through Cohesive Teams."

General Porter's change reminds members how they play a critical role in his priority, no matter their position in our organization—continuing to be a welcoming and positive teammates.

"I need you to look out for one another and offer support whenever you can," said Porter.

"This profession is not easy, and we know people continue to serve because of the



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FY23 ARMY STRENGTH GOAL: 1,600



PHOTO BY MSGT JON ALDERMAN

relationships they build here. Thank you for all you do to create an atmosphere where everyone can contribute to our missions."

The recruiting teams in the Wyoming Air National Guard and Wyoming Army National Guard continue to lead the charge for the agency.

Both services' recruiters are finding creative ways to get information to potential recruits about the benefits of military service.

"Thank you for all that you do to serve as the Sword and Shield."

.....
"This profession is not easy, and we know people continue to serve because of the relationships they build here. Thank you for all you do to create an atmosphere where everyone can contribute to our missions."

- Major General Gregory Porter

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CONTACT AN AIR GUARD RECRUITER

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FY23 AIR STRENGTH GOAL: 1,372

WYOMING
**AIR NATIONAL
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**WYOMING NATIONAL GUARD
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**LEADERSHIP LISTED FOR 2022*



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