

THE JET GAZETTE

READY TO SERVE...NATION & NEIGHBOR

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 141ST AIR REFUELING WING

APRIL 2026



RAT TRAINING

WING STAFF AGENCIES RECEIVE
SFS AUGMENTEE TRAINING

I'M BACK!

NOTES FROM THE TOP: NEW MXG
DEPUTY SHARES STORY & VISION

EXEVAL 2026

HOMELAND RESPONSE FORCE
PROVES CAPABILITIES

LEGAL OFFICE

DEPLOYMENT READINESS: ARE
YOU LEGALLY READY TO DEPLOY?

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APRIL 2026

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DEPUTY COMMANDER COL. ANGELA O'CONNELL
EXECUTIVE OFFICER LT. COL. MICHAEL HART
COMMAND CHIEF CHIEF MASTER SGT. STEVE WEBSTER

JET GAZETTE STAFF

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PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST STAFF SGT. RICKY ARNOLD

THE MISSION

THE MISSION OF THE JET GAZETTE
IS TO EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATE EVENTS
AND INFORMATION OF THE 141ST AIR REFUELING WING
TO UNIT MEMBERS, THEIR FAMILIES AND RETIREES
AND TO RECOGNIZE PERSONAL AND UNIT
ACHIEVEMENTS WITHIN THE WING.

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UTA WEEKENDS.



NOTES FROM THE TOP

LT. COL. DEIRDRE "DEE" CATLIN
DEPUTY COMMANDER, 141ST MAINTENANCE GROUP

I am honored to serve as the deputy maintenance commander. As a former operator and program manager for the 141st Air Refueling Wing Control Column Actuated Brake KC-135 fleet installation initiative, I am grateful to return to an exceptional team that has shaped my military perspective.

Over the past 22 years in active duty and the Air National Guard, many people and experiences have influenced my career. One moment stands out and reflects how I describe military service to my civilian friends. It highlights the character of those who serve and the privilege of serving alongside them.

In 2010, following a seven-hour mission in an E-11, we learned the airfield was closed due to an ongoing base attack.

While holding in deteriorating weather, our aircraft experienced a malfunction that required an immediate landing. After landing, we taxied to the ramp and assessed how to secure the aircraft as personnel remained in bunkers.

Shortly after, three maintainers drove out to assist our aircraft and crew. No one directed them to respond; in fact, we had been told we were on our own. They accepted personal risk to ensure mission success and our safety. When we thanked them, their response was simple: "Of course."

This event reflects the core of military service in combat, but it also represents the mindset I continue to see across the wing. During my past two years on wing staff, I observed the same commitment—Airmen

and civilians supporting each other regardless of mission, Air Force specialty code or time of day.

I selected the accompanying photo for two reasons: it marks my first day back in uniform after a nine-year break, and it includes a friend who supported me throughout that time and never gave up on me. We often speak about the Guard as a family, and it is essential that we live up to that standard. This includes providing opportunities, training and honest feedback, as well as supporting members and their families—married and single. It also includes fostering personal and professional growth. The combined

experience of our traditional and full-time members makes the Guard a strong organization, and we benefit from learning from and supporting one another.

I welcome the responsibilities of this role and look forward to working with the team. I am grateful to those who have supported me along the way and appreciate the opportunity to continue to serve, learn and grow as a leader. I will admit, I am also looking forward to the smell of jet fuel on drill mornings!

My heart is with our Guard family overseas. You are in our thoughts and prayers, and you have our full support and best wishes.

—Dee



CHIEF'S CORNER



CHIEF MASTER SGT. DONALD J. GRANT 141ST MXG QUALITY ASSURANCE SUPERINTENDENT

Team,

I want to begin this April Drill with a message of profound gratitude. Thank you to our members who answered the call at a moment's notice, to the support teams who ensured their success, and to the families whose unwavering support is the bedrock of our strength. Your professionalism and commitment have not gone unnoticed.

I have been in contact with our members downrange. Despite the short notice and austere conditions, their morale is exceptionally high. This is a testament to their character and a direct reflection of our training and our purpose. This is why we serve. Early in my own

career, I was advised to "never volunteer." I can tell you now that this was the worst advice I ever received. The moments I am most proud of—the accomplishments that brought the greatest satisfaction—came from raising my hand when it was hard. The greatest rewards are found on the other side of sacrifice.

Years from now, our returning Airmen will look back on this time with immense pride in what they accomplished. For those of us here, our mission is clear: keep them and their families in our thoughts and never hesitate to find your own opportunity to raise your hand.

—Chief Grant

HRF EXEVAL 2026

STORY BY: MAJ. CARL REYES
PHOTOS BY: MASTER SGT. MICHAEL STEWART



CLICK TO PLAY





Airmen and Soldiers of the Washington National Guard's 10th Homeland Response Force (HRF) proved their rapid-response capabilities during a rigorous External Evaluation (EXEVAL) held from March 21-25, 2026. This was the NGB's first EXEVAL administered under the new "crawl/walk/run" format.

The intensive, multi-day exercise tested the joint task force's ability to mobilize and execute critical life-saving operations in the simulated aftermath of a catastrophic Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) incident. Conducted every three years, the EXEVAL ensures the HRF maintains peak operational readiness to assist civil authorities during large-scale domestic disasters.

Throughout the five-day evaluation, evaluators from NGB monitored tactical coordination and technical proficiency under severe simulated stress. Showcasing a caliber of proficiency well beyond the standard, all CBRN Task Force (CBRNTF) elements—including Command and Control (C2), Medical, Search & Extraction, the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC), and the Fatality Search and Recovery Team (FSRT)—scored the top-tier rank of "Trained."

After deploying and establishing a fully operational footprint within a strict six-hour window, these highly rated units successfully executed their core mission sets. Operations included navigating a simulated contaminated

"hot zone" to extract casualties, conducting mass decontamination, and providing immediate medical stabilization as well as.

The exercise showed the seamless coordination between military responders, local emergency management elements, and hundreds of role-playing casualties. Command staff effectively managed complex logistics and incident planning, while operational teams efficiently triaged and processed victims through the decontamination lines.

The successful completion of the March 2026 EXEVAL officially recertifies the unit's operational status, ensuring the region remains protected by a highly trained, rapid-deployment force ready for worst-case scenarios.



TECH SGT. ROBERT VANDENHEUVEL

MASTER SGT. KEEGAN MCARTHUR

TECH SGT. JOSHUA STANFIELD



MASTER SGT. JACOB SCHRADER

MASTER SGT. NICOLAS PINQUE



TECH SGT. ROBERT VANDENHEUVEL



MASTER SGT. SUSANNE MENSIK

LT. COL. TIMOTHY RIDNOUR



COL. CARRIE WENTZEL

COL. ANGELA OCONNELL



STAFF SGT. ELIZABETH KOVACICH

MASTER SGT. JOY QUAM

MASTER SGT. DEREK SENTER

MASTER SGT. JACOB SCHRADER







MAJ. CARL REYES



CAPT. RICHARD STOWE

LT. COL. ERIC ARONSOHN

CAPT. SAMUEL SHEAHAN

A1C JOSEPH WILLIAMSON



TECH. SGT. TYLER WARD



TECH. SGT. SCOTT EDGE

MASTER SGT. MARY BETH DAVIS





MASTER SGT. GREG HARADA

CAPT. JUSTIN SWENSEN



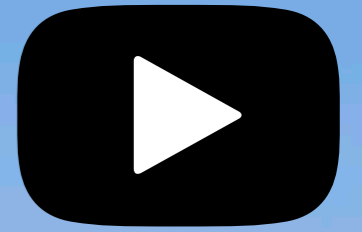


CHIEF MASTER SGT. CALEB GUTHIMILLER



RAT

READY AIRMAN TRAINING



CLICK TO PLAY
FACEBOOK LINK

STORY & PHOTOS BY: STAFF SGT. RICKY ARNOLD



SENIOR AMN. COLTON HOTVEDT

STAFF SGT. COLE FRIERDICH

TECH. SGT. SHANNON KEALOHA

SENIOR MASTER SGT. JESS PETERSON

TECH. SGT. MICHAEL BROWN

MASTER SGT. NATE LEITZ

STAFF SGT. JOSHUA KRAMER

2ND LT. MARIAH MCLEOD



Airmen assigned to the 141st Wing Staff Agencies participated in security forces augmentee training conducted by the 92nd Security Forces Squadron at Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington, April 16-17, enhancing their ability to support installation defense operations and emergency response requirements.

The training prepared 60 members of the 141st Wing Staff Agencies to augment base defense missions by providing instruction in weapons familiarization and safety, handcuffing and searching procedures, shoot, move and communicate tactics, use-of-force scenarios, squad movements and entry control point

operations. During the two-day training, participants completed a combination of classroom instruction and hands-on exercises designed to build proficiency and confidence in force protection support roles.

The purpose of the training is to ensure the installation can maintain operational readiness by expanding the

number of qualified personnel available to assist security forces during increased force protection conditions, contingency operations or periods of heightened mission requirements.

“Leadership was looking at what our roles are going into 2027, and one of the things wing staff could do is learn how to perform roles across the wing,” said Lt. Col. Deirdre Catlin, director of

equal opportunity, 141st Air Refueling Wing. “We’ve been conducting training for the past year and a half, whether it’s learning to drive buses or forklifts, to now learning how to defend a base and support the flightline as security forces augmentees.”

The hands-on training allowed Airmen from across the wing to apply newly learned skills in a controlled

environment while strengthening their ability to support real-world installation security requirements.

Augmentee training strengthens the wing’s overall readiness posture by enabling Airmen from multiple career fields to contribute directly to base defense and mission assurance, reinforcing the Air Force’s emphasis on readiness and multi-capable Airmen.



LT. COL JEFFREY MCELROY



2ND LT. JORDAN POLLOCK



LT. COL. DEIDRE CATLIN



TECH SGT. MICHAEL BROWN



STAFF SGT. SELENE ARNOLD



TECH SGT. KAYLEIGH PHILLIPS



MASTER SGT. RACHEL PORTOLESI



TECH SGT. HANNAH SKOOG



DEPLOYMENT READINESS

ARE YOU LEGALLY READY TO DEPLOY?

141ST LEGAL OFFICE

The operational environment is rapidly changing, and we want to make sure our members are legally ready to deploy at a moment's notice. Please do not wait until the last minute to get your legal affairs in order.

Here is how the 141 ARW Legal Office can help you prepare:

- **POWER(S) OF ATTORNEY (POA):** POAs apply when you are living. There are special POAs and general POAs. Special POAs allow a designated person to carry out a specific responsibility such as sell a car, buy or sell property, or have access to a bank account, etc. General POAs allow a designated person or people to have complete control over all of your financial affairs.

It is important to note that General POAs may not be accepted at certain institutions, including banks. Institutions have the right to refuse POAs. Because of this, we recommend Special POAs since they are very specific on what a person can do or access on your behalf. When you choose who should be on a POA, choose carefully.

- **HEALTHCARE POA:** Also applies when you are living. A Healthcare POA allows the person you designate to make healthcare decisions on your behalf in the event you are unconscious or incapacitated. Everyone should have a healthcare POA if nothing else.

- **LIVING WILL:** Also applies when you are living. You may want a living will to direct a doctor to stop providing you with the ability to prolong your life. We can discuss the need for a living will when you arrive for your appointment.

- **WILLS:** These apply after you die. If you are married or have kids, you should have a will. It allows you to designate to whom your property will pass in the event of your death. It also allows you to designate a guardian for your children and allow a guardian or trustee to control money and assets for the benefit of your children until your children reach a designated age that you determine.

Prior to making an appointment, please fill out a worksheet at this link <https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil/lass/lass.html>. Once you've completed your worksheet(s), save the ticket numbers and print copies to bring with you to your appointment. Then, call our office at 247-7035 and we can schedule an appointment to draft and execute your documents. Keep in mind it usually takes up to two drill weekends from the beginning of the process to the execution of your will. Please plan ahead.

**This guidance is provided for general awareness and should not be considered legal advice. For questions or clarification, contact the Legal Office at (509) 247-7035 or visit during office hours.*





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**INTERESTED? CONTACT MSGT DEREK REESE AT: DEREK.REESE.2@US.AF.MIL
CELL: (509) 995-4359 DESK: (509) 247-7375**



AIRMAN SPOTLIGHT

SSGT MINDY KEDDINGTON

UNIT: 141st Wing Staff Agency

JOB: Command Support Staff

WHY YOU JOINED THE GUARD: the Guard is more family oriented and I wanted to not only be able to serve my country, but also my local community

HOBBIES: Triathlete, photography, graphic design and cooking

GOALS: To serve at least 20 years in the military and finish Iron Man 70.3. I will graduate with my Bachelors in Web and Digital design. To just live a comfortable life when my husband and I retire

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Major Fancher Calls Air Derby Greatest Event In Spokane History

By MAJOR JOHN T. FANCHER

Spokane will be the largest 1927 aviation center in the United States from September 21 to 24.

This assurance is given by the contest committee of the National Aeronautic Association of the United States, when the committee awarded the national air races to Spokane, and sanctioned a National Air Derby race from New York here and the Pacific Coast Air Derby from San Francisco.

People acquainted with the importance of the



flew himself into the hearts of every man, woman and child by winging his way across the Atlantic ocean to Paris, where thousands of persons welcomed him. His accomplishment was a new evolution in aviation. Colonel Lindbergh has conquered the Atlantic, and thereby made his contribution toward bringing nations closer together.

In much the same manner the National Air Derby race from New York to Spokane will serve to closer unite the East and West, as the territory to be flown, especially west of Chicago to Spokane, is virgin air to pilots.

By this race, which will attract no less than 50 planes, the National Air Derby Association of Spokane hopes to speedily assist in establishing a northern air mail and passenger route across the northern border of the United States.

When this is accomplished Spokane will not only be the aviation center of the world for a few days, but will permanently be listed throughout the nation as one of the big aviation centers as Felts Field, Parkwater, is one of the biggest and most satisfactory fields for year around flying that there is in the United States.

Spokane is also located between the Rocky and Cascade mountains, a position which means that a big aviation development will spring up here after the northern airway has been established.

The big program confronting Spokane immediately is for everyone to lend every possible assistance in making the national air races in September a big success. Persons never having seen the national air races cannot begin to realize the thrill accompanying them, nor the skill displayed by pilots in the high powered ships.

To the average person a dozen or so airplanes seems like a large number. However, Spokane is scheduled to see no less than 250 airplanes flying into this city as participants in the two races, and to witness the national air contests.

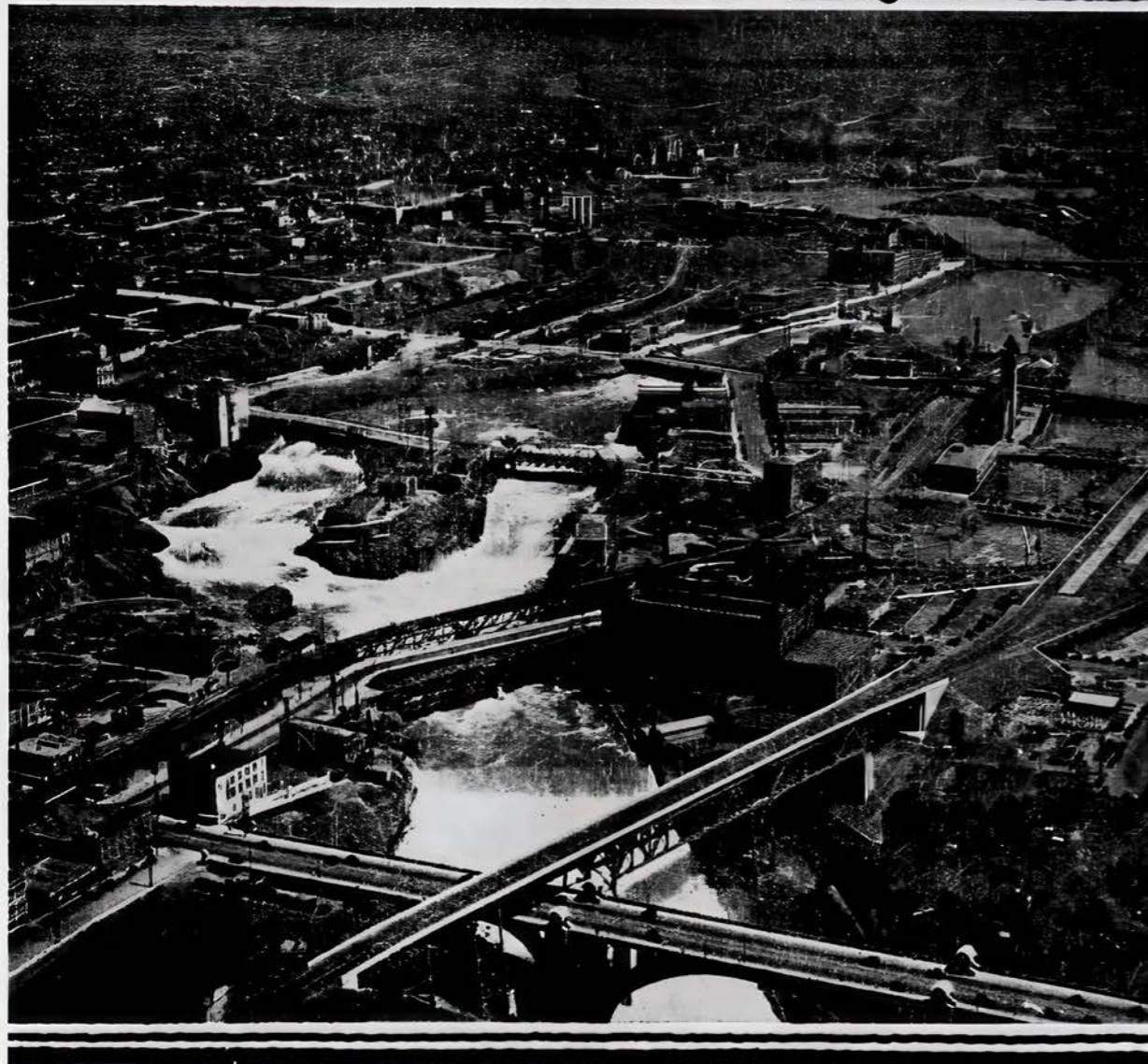
About \$50,000 in cash prizes will be awarded the winners of the various events. In addition to these prizes elaborate trophy cups will be given to the flyers.

By staging these races Spokane is endorsing the National Aeronautic Association's slogan — "Make America First in the Air."

Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh is giving consideration to an invitation to act as official starter of the national air races here September 23 and 24. When personally discussing the Spokane aerial events with a representative of the National Air Derby Association of Spokane, Colonel Lindbergh said:

"I appreciate the invitation to act as starter for the races, which are in line with the work in which I am most interested. These races will be of immeasurable value to the development of commercial aviation. The invitation is looked upon by me favorably, and I shall give it most serious consideration."

at Felts Field, Parkwater, where the planes in the two derby races will land on September 21. A few weeks ago Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh



An Unusual Aerial View of Spokane—Showing the

FRISCO D... IN MAD R... BALLOUG... CLASS B

HERE IS THE WAY THE CL...



Speeding westward to Spokane from New York are the... is numbered and by referring to the list of entrants below th...

CLASS B

ST. PAUL, Sept. 21. (A.P.)—Fighting gamely to overcome the advantage of leaders, the trailing planes in the class B derby, New York to Spokane, took up the long westward grind again early today with few exceptions.

Two at St. Paul. Pilot Jack Ashcroft, in No. 42, took off at 4:30 a. m., and Pilot N. H. Unger, in No. 51, leaving a minute later.