



THE GUARDIAN

December 2013

A Publication of the Wyoming Air National Guard

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153aw.pa@ang.af.mil

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Please feel free to submit article ideas, comments or corrections.

The Guardian is the unofficial newspaper published by the 153rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office for the members of the Wyoming Air National Guard. The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of the United States Air Force, the Wyoming Military Department or the Wyoming Air National Guard.

Brig. Gen. Kathy Wright receives a wet welcome when she steps off a Wyo. Air National Guard C-130 in Cheyenne Nov. 7. This return hop from Washington DC is her last official flight before retiring next month, and in Air Force tradition for final flights, a fire truck is ready to hose her down. The former assistant adjutant general – Army took it well and shared a laugh with others on the tarmac. (US National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jimmy McGuire)

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Stephany D. Richards



Commander's Corner



by Col. Michael Taheri
153rd Airlift Wing Commander

As we prepare for December drill, I want to first say that I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving Weekend with their families and loved ones. The first couple months of this fiscal year have certainly been challenging for most of us, so the down time is well deserved by all.

In reflecting on the past year in the 153rd, I was thinking about the goals I set out for us during the Change of Command in August. Let me take a moment to reflect on those goals and tell you where I think we are today.

First, I said we had to remain decisively engaged in operations today. To that I would say we continue to excel in virtually every category. We currently have Guardsmen and members of the 30th deployed all over the world and we are prepared to send more out the door soon. Our mission capable rates continue to show significant improvement and when the government shut down occurred we were up and flying within a day to meet the requirements of today and tomorrow—the first TFI unit to do so.

Second, we must maintain a viable force in the future as we

prepare for the unseen challenges and opportunities to come. Although I believe we continue to maintain a viable force, our recruiting numbers continue to lag. To improve our standing, we have already brought in a number of new faces and increased our numbers in recruiting; three more Production Recruiters and a new officer position on the wing staff will soon join the great experience we already retain in the recruiting office. With all this, the most important aspect of our effort is each one of you—that means quite simply that each of you is a recruiter for the 153rd. Also, to those who are considering retirement, transfer, or separation, we would ask you to stick with us a while longer. Recruiting and retention are key to our health as a unit, and I have every confidence that with your help, we are turning this corner, so let's collectively keep the press.

My third point was that we would groom the bench of leaders for the future. I believe we are doing as well as anyone in the nation when it comes

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Hero 2 Hired job fair comes together for veterans with strong community support

By Capt. Thomas Blackburn
Deputy Public Affairs Specialist

Laura Jeffrey stood in the middle of the bustling American Legion Post #6 cafeteria, with a smile on her face.

Around her, numerous job seekers with military backgrounds were conversing with over a dozen employers from the state of Wyoming during the state's first Hero 2 Hired job fair.

It was an event that almost didn't happen.

In October when government staffs were temporarily sent home due to the lack of a federal budget due to the shutdown, Jeffrey was feverishly trying to get a Hero 2 Hired job fair off the ground for Wyoming's Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve program. As a program support specialist, she works to line up employers and other assets for job fairs that target Wyoming's past and present military members. For the federal H2H program, it meant dealing with a federal entity that had to deal with the shutdown and therefore delay advertising dollars she needed to pay local media outlets.

However, she learned that H2H was going to be able to supply its Cheyenne hiring event with full external support. Program members from the H2H headquarters in Washington D.C. were coming to Cheyenne with their full-size Mobile Job Store vehicle that could be used as a marketing tool and an employee access point for the H2H website.

"We found out we were getting the truck during the furlough, and had all the (local) papers interested," she said. However, when the furlough became prolonged, and the money for the event became difficult to extract to pay for the advertising, Jeffrey said doubts arose on whether they would be able to attract enough people to the event.

When budgets were settled and funding released, Jeffrey had less than two weeks to advertise the event. That's when she says the local community stepped up for the event

and the veterans who had served their nation.

"(The papers) flooded the market for us," she said. "They stepped up because the timeframe was so tight." Half page ads went in varying papers across the region and one local radio station blasted the airwaves with the radio spot. Jeffrey was surprised by the willing support.

Sandy Williams, a program analyst with the Employee Initiative Program, which manages H2H, was impressed with what she saw.

"Glad to see this support in the local community," she said. "I'm impressed since it was put on such short notice. Great public support."

Jeffrey agreed with that as well as she looked around and saw numerous examples of the job fairs initial success.

A job seeker from the morning who had taken the opportunity to review his resume with an expert, had gone home, fixed it, and returned with copies to hand out to employers. One person sat nearby filling out an application. At another table, an employer handed several business cards to interested applicants after giving a small brief about the job. The opportunities were there, and local veterans were taking advantage of it.

The federally funded Heroes 2 Hire program has events across the nation and is designed to be a one-stop job search process, either at its in-person fairs or on the website. H2H is a way for veterans, retirees, current serving military and military families to access many different job search tools, as well as talk to employers about opportunities.

At the American Legion, interested veterans could sit down with a resume expert and

continued on following page

critique their resume, discuss interview techniques, and talk face-to-face with human resource representatives from the 12 different employers there.

“This is the entry process to get things started,” Jeffrey said. “We have had a lot of support from employers. We had six employers show up this morning that hadn’t signed up and just came anyway.”

With such short notice to advertise, it was important for Jeffrey to provide an environment that benefited all parties involved.

“The intent is to help employers find the perfect employee and the employee to find the perfect employer,” Jeffrey said. “The goal is to link employers with the veteran.” She said she couldn’t put a number on how many people would come to the event, but said that if one of them received a job it would be a success.

Some of the companies at the event included Wyoming Machinery, Dyno Noble, Echo Star, and SOS Staffing. Some of those employers Jeffrey had worked with previously in other job fairs. The job skills provided through military training are key assets to them.

“We’re helping veterans and getting skill sets that (the applicant) gains in the military,” said Wyoming Machinery human resource rep Casey Turcato, who also added that there is also extra satisfaction in helping veterans find jobs.

If a veteran does not find a job they like at the event, Jeffrey says

the H2H website is the next step in locating that next career. On the website, a translator program helps a military member translate their job specialty into a definable civilian description so as to find opportunities that suit that career field. If a job is found that is acceptable, the applicant can apply, post a resume and seek advice from an employment transition coordinator that will follow up to provide further advice or support. Each state has their own ETC member and the applicant can choose to work closely with that person or choose to do it on their own.

Williams says that job seekers can receive an abundant amount of information and support during their transition process into another job with H2H online or at the job fairs.

“It’s a great outreach program, by using the vast resources of the ESGR,” she said. Williams details the hiring numbers so far this year to support the usefulness of H2H’s efforts. This year alone, 12,363 applicants have received jobs from using the program. Currently there are nationally over 19,000 registered employers, with 3.7 million jobs on the website, with over 200 employers added weekly.

In Wyoming, there are currently 31 companies offering 2,978 jobs, with 318 job seekers registered on the website. But, Williams says her work in helping the service members in Wyoming looking for better employment is not over. 🇺🇸

H2H



CC continued

to developing our force. We have officers on tours outside the state and we have brought others to us in what I consider a mutually beneficial relationship. Within the Wing we are gaining diversified experiences across our force—just take a look at the movement in the Officer and Senior Enlisted force in just the last six months. One area where I think we can continue to improve is in Enlisted In-Residence PME. While we are at the front of the national pack when it comes to the officer side, we continue to lag in applications from our enlisted force, and I ask that we all devote renewed energy to turning that tide.

One final thought in closing—the holidays are the happiest time of year for many, but at the same time, we know that this can also be a most difficult time of year for many. I ask of all of you while you enjoy this time of year, that you also take the time to check up on each other as well. If you are having a difficult time, or you know someone who is, please pick up the phone or drop by and see one of the many great people we employ who know how to help. None of us lives alone on an island, and we all owe it to each other to look out for our Wingmen.

Thank you all once again for a spectacular year! Patti and I wish you and your families a wonderful holiday and the happiest of New Years!

Maj. Gen. K. Luke Reiner The Adjutant General Proudly Presents the Outstanding Soldiers & Airmen of the Year Awards Banquet

When: January 11, 2014

Where: Holiday Inn

Guest Speaker: Governor Matt Mead

Cost: E-5 & below - \$25 per person
E-6 & above/Officers/Civilians - \$30 per person

Doors Open at 5:30 p.m.,
Dinner Served at 6:30 p.m.
Open Seating

Attire: Military – Mess Dress or Semi-Formal
Civilian – Formal or Business attire

E-Invitation

<https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=172709&k=0366400E7B5E>

Points of Contact

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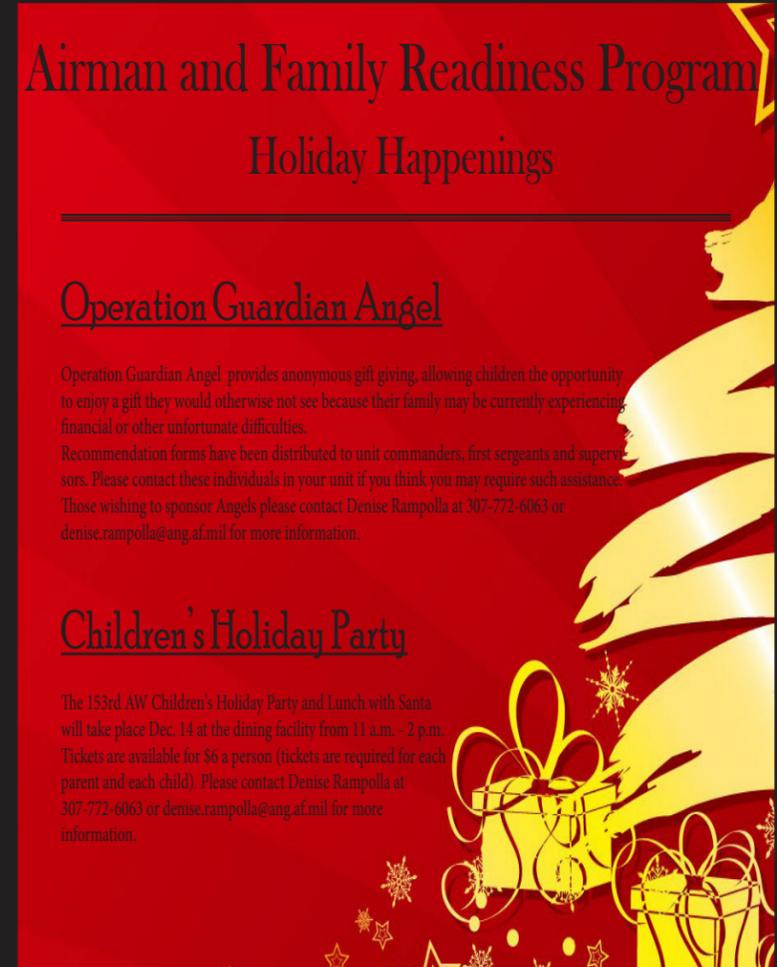
**NOMINATE YOUR
OUTSTANDING EMPLOYER**

2014 SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
**EMPLOYER SUPPORT
FREEDOM AWARD**

Attention, Guard and Reserve members:
Has your employer gone above and beyond the call of duty to support your military service? Nominate your employer for the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, the Nation's highest honor for exceptional support of Guard and Reserve employees.

SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION NOW!
November 1, 2013 - January 20, 2014
www.FreedomAward.mil

ESGR, a Department of Defense office established in 1972, develops and promotes employer support for Guard and Reserve service by advocating relevant initiatives, recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of applicable laws and resolving conflict between employers and service members.



Airman and Family Readiness Program

Holiday Happenings

Operation Guardian Angel

Operation Guardian Angel provides anonymous gift giving, allowing children the opportunity to enjoy a gift they would otherwise not see because their family may be currently experiencing financial or other unfortunate difficulties. Recommendation forms have been distributed to unit commanders, first sergeants and supervisors. Please contact these individuals in your unit if you think you may require such assistance. Those wishing to sponsor Angels please contact Denise Rampolla at 307-772-6063 or denise.rampolla@ang.af.mil for more information.

Children's Holiday Party

The 153rd AW Children's Holiday Party and Lunch with Santa will take place Dec. 14 at the dining facility from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Tickets are available for \$6 a person (tickets are required for each parent and each child). Please contact Denise Rampolla at 307-772-6063 or denise.rampolla@ang.af.mil for more information.



Dining Facility Menu

<u>December 7</u>	<u>December 8, Holiday meal</u>
Pot Roast	Prime Rib, Turkey, Ham
Grilled chicken breast	Shrimp cocktail
Au gratin potatoes	Mashed potatoes/gravy
Mixed vegetable	Sweet potatoes
Hamburgers/Hot dogs	Stuffing
Rolls	Corn
Salad bar	Rolls
Assorted deserts	Salad bar
Meal Rate \$ 4.60	Cranberry sauce
	Assorted dessert
	Meal Rate \$ 7.60
	No short order line

WyAng Traditional Jobs

AFSC Job Title Closing Date

3E6X1	Operations Management Craftsman, MSgt (153CES)	9 December 2013
3E9X1	Emergency Management Craftsman, MSgt (153CES)	9 December 2013
3S0X1	Personnel Systems Manager, MSgt (153FSS)	8 December 2013
----- 153MSG MSgt Vacancies -----		
3E5X1	Engineering	8 Decemeber 2013
3E7X1	Fire Protection	8 December 2013
2E1X1	Heat/Vnt/AC/Rfg	8 December 2013
3E4X1	Water & Fuel Systems Maint.	8 December 2013
3D1X1	Client Systems	8 December 2013
3D0X2	Cyber Sys Operations	8 December 2013
3P0X1	Security Forces	8 December 2013
3M0X1	Services	8 December 2013
2T2X1	Air trans	8 December 2013
8F000	First Sergeant	8 December 2013
3P0X1	Security Forces	8 December 2013 - - -
----- 153MXG MSgt Vacancies -----		
2A8X1E	Avionic Sys Craftsman	8 December 2013
2A5X1	Aerospace Maint Craftsman	8 December 2013
2R1X1	Production Control	8 December 2013
2R1X1	Production Control (Training)	8 December 2013
----- 153OG MSgt Vacancies -----		
X4N0X1	Aircrew, Aerospace Medical Service, 187 AES	8 December 2013
1A1X1	Flight Engineer, 187 AS	8 December 2013
1C1X1	Air Traffic Control, 243ATCS	8 December 2013
3D1X5	Radar, 243ATCS	8 December 2013
1C1X1	Air Traffic Control, 243ATCS	8 December 2013
3D1X6	Airfield Systems, 243ATCS	8 December 2013

3D071	Knowledge Operations Craftsman, E-7 (JFHQ)	Open Until Filled
3N0X1	Public Affairs Craftsman, E-7 (JFHQ)	Open Until Filled
3S071	Personnel Craftsman, E-6 (JFHQ)	Open Until Filled
3S091	Personnel Superintendent, E-8 (JFHQ)	Open Until Filled
17D4B	Chief Communication Officer, O-5 (JFHQ)	Open Until Filled
21R4	Director of Logistics, O-4 (JFHQ)	Open Until Filled
48R3	Residency Trained Flight Surgeon, O-5 (153MDG)	Open Until Filled
48R3	General Medical Officer, Flight Surgeon, O-5 (187AS)	Open Until Filled

please visit link for detailed traditional jobs listing

<http://wyomilitary.wyo.gov/Employment>

please visit link for full-time jobs listing

<http://wyomilitary.wyo.gov/Employment/air-full-time-employment>

We Salute

Promotions

Lt. Col. Thomas Castillo
 Capt. David Duckworth
 Capt. Andrew Korsgarden
 Capt. Michael Ryan
 1st. Lt. Nils Lorenz
 Senior Master Sgt. Todd Davis
 Senior Master Sgt. Travis Opsal
 Senior Master Sgt. Jeffery Tschacher
 Senior Master Sgt. Billie Wilson
 Senior Master Sgt. Trudy Woodcock
 Master Sgt. Zachary Austin
 Master Sgt. Laura Brow
 Master Sgt. Emily Collins
 Master Sgt. Wesley Erickson
 Master Sgt. Joshua Fitch
 Master Sgt. Iris Honrado
 Master Sgt. David Swaney
 Tech. Sgt. Joshua Goehring
 Tech. Sgt. Eric Lieven
 Staff Sgt. Daniel Banner
 Staff Sgt. Whitney Morris
 Staff Sgt. Ryan Rodekohr
 Senior Airman Kisha Thomas

Retirements

Major Eugene Jackson
 Chief Master Sgt. Roger Woolington
 Senior Master Sgt. Spencer Browning
 Senior Master Sgt. Stanley Butler
 Senior Master Sgt. Gary Foster
 Master Sgt. Richard Cruz
 Master Sgt. David Worthington
 Tech. Sgt. Arlin Dechaney

All applications must be submitted by the closing date listed on the advertisement to
 Master Sgt. Denise Hondel
 153 AW/FSS • 217 Dell Range Blvd. • Cheyenne, WY 82009-3320
 307-772-6457

The Wyoming Military Department is an equal opportunity employer. Selection for all positions will be made without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor. This applies to ALL vacancies within the Wyoming Military Department.

Job announcements must be sent directly to FSS, not to the Public Affairs Office. The format must include, Position Title, Grade, Officer/Enlisted (both), other special qualifications. The requested announcement may be sent to Master Sgt. Denise Hondel or Tech. Sgt. Victoria Lopez for submission. Questions on posting job announcements may be directed to Master Sgt. Denise Hondel.