

High Roller News

Berry selected as 30th adjutant general for the state of Nevada

By 2nd Lt. Emerson Marcus 152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs



Brig. Gen. Ondra L. Berry, a 32-year veteran of the Nevada Air National Guard, longtime Reno police officer and most recently a senior vice president in MGM Resorts International human resources office, has been named by Gov. Steve Sisolak as Nevada's 30th adjutant general and the first African American to hold the position in the state's 154-year history.

"Brigadier General Berry has served the State of Nevada and his country with distinction as a member and leader of the Nevada Air National Guard," Governor Sisolak said. "Beyond his exemplary experience in the military, Brig. Gen. Berry's diverse background in senior leadership

roles in local law enforcement and business gives him an invaluable perspective on the qualities and skills necessary to succeed at the highest levels."

The adjutant general serves as the state's highest ranking military officer overseeing more than 4,200 Nevada Army and Air Guardsmen.

"I am honored and humbled to be selected to lead such a fine organization" said Berry. "I live by the motto that, 'to whom much is given, much will be required' and I am ready to deliver."

Berry is set to replace retiring Brig. Gen. William Burks on Sept. 1. Burks was appointed adjutant general in 2009 and is the sixth-longest tenured adjutant general in Nevada history.

"I know the governor had a very difficult decision to make," Burks said. "Ondra will do an outstanding job and will take the organization to new heights."

Berry, 60, of Sparks, Nevada, enlisted in the Nevada Air National Guard in 1986.

He commissioned in 1990. In 2001, he took command of the 152nd Mission Support Flight. He was named the assistant adjutant general, Nevada Air National Guard, in 2015.

Berry spearheaded numerous initiatives advocating community policing and diversity throughout his career in law enforcement and the military. In the early 2000s, Berry founded Guardian Quest, a diversity and inclusion training company. After leaving RPD in 2005, Berry took a full-time position as the senior vice president of diversity and inclusion at MGM Resorts in Las Vegas. In 2008, Berry began work as the director of the office of cultural transformation at the National Guard Bureau, his first of several positions working as an advisor to the chief of NGB. Berry was awarded the National Guard Diversity Award in 2008 and the Outstanding Diversity Award by the NAACP in 2012.

Berry, who served 25 years in the Reno Police Department, was named deputy chief of police in 1995. He retired from the department in 2005 as the assistant police chief.

He has worked on various commissions and boards throughout his career, including United Way and the Truckee Meadows Boys and Girls Club. In 1990, along with now-Washoe County School Board Trustee Angie Taylor, Berry founded the Northern Nevada Black Cultural Awareness Society.

A native of Evansville, Indiana, Berry moved to Nevada in 1980. He has a Bachelor's of Arts, secondary education, from University of Evansville in Indiana where he played running back for the Purple Aces. Berry also has a Masters of Arts, public administration, from the University of Nevada, Reno. He is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Air War College.

Berry is married to his wife, Margo. They have three children: son, Jarel; daughters Zivy and Dulcinea.

A change of command ceremony is set for 10 a.m. Sept. 7 at the Nevada Air National Guard Base in Reno, 1776 National Guard Way. For information, please contact Lt. Col. Mickey Kirschenbaum at 775-287-5592 or email mikol.kirschenbaum.mil@mail.mil.

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Chaplain's Corner

Emotional bad habits affect relationships

By Maj. Donny Crandell 152nd Airlift Wing Chaplain

marriage minute



Negative self-talk develops negative emotional habits. It's a response you learn, and it becomes automatic because you use it so much. It's like an addiction, only a negative thinking pattern is the drug of choice. Negative emotions, created by negative thoughts, are habits, just like your self-talk is a habit. They're not necessarily tied to your personality. It's not a matter of genes. And because of that, there's hope for change. What's been learned can be unlearned. Emotional bad habits are losing games like playing against an opponent with loaded dice. As long as you keep playing with them, you will keep on losing.

A Better Way to Think by, Norman Wright

My two cents: Think only positive thoughts about your spouse or significant other today...and I'll bet you will feel better about them and you.

Be blessed, Ch. Crandell

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Leadership News

High Roller ladies attend Joint Women's Leadership Symposium

By Senior Master Sgt. Paula Macomber 152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs and Capt. Megan Curry 152nd Operations Group



Airmen from the 152nd Airlift Wing, Nevada Air National Guard, who attended the symposium, from left to right, back to front: Senior Airman Kennedy, Staff Sgt. Kathryn Heeran, Senior Airman Meghan Arrance, Senior Master Sgt. Jennifer Harrell, Tech. Sgt. Rita Middleton, Capt. Jessica Sarradet, Capt. Megan Curry, Capt. Merridy Young, Tech. Sgt. Melanie Pearmain, and Tech. Sgt. Rebecca Myrick.

The 2019 Joint Women's Leadership symposium took place Aug. 22-23 in Washington, D.C. The 152nd Airlift Wing sent 10 women to represent the High Rollers and bring back lessons learned.

With over 1,000 attendees, women and men, officers and enlisted, active duty, retired, and everything in between, it was the largest turnout the group has ever received. With speakers like former Secretary of the Air Force, Deborah Lee James, a panel of international officers from Australia, Sweden, and Denmark, and multiple General Officers, the guest list alone was extraordinary.

The two days consisted of multiple panels and breakout sessions that members could attend based on their particular interests. Some topics included: leadership and the pursuit of confidence, mentorship, understanding PTSD in women, uniform fit/function concerns, breaking barriers, various roles that men play in empowering women, dual military/civilian couples concerns, and many more valuable topics.

The symposium ended with an inspirational panel with four outstanding airmen who shared their stories of assault, survival, and resilience.

Capt. Megan Curry from the 152nd Operations Group attended and also co-wrote this article, said it was a valuable experience.

"Women have unique experiences that differ from our male counterparts' and therefore bring unique perspectives," Curry said. "Each one of us 10 women who were able to attend the symposium were grateful for the opportunity and feel inspired after such an experience. One of the major themes of the symposium was the importance of competency in your job and the role it plays in developing confident women in the military. Once a woman feels confident and subsequently empowered, she is then able to mentor the next generation and begin a cycle of success. The

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Nellis News

Semper Guard: Former Marine Corps officer begins Nev. Air Guard job at Nellis

By Lt. Col. Mikol Kirschenbaum Nev. Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

LAS VEGAS – Judging by his Marine Corps aviation resume, it's a safe bet the new Deputy Director of the Virtual Test and Training Center Maj. Geoffrey Franks will thrive in the Nevada Air Guard. Franks, whose call sign name is "El Gato," officially joined the Nevada Air Guard Wednesday during a swearing in ceremony at Nellis Air Force Base.

Franks, an F-35 pilot in the Marine Corps, is replacing Lt. Col. Jacob Hammons. Hammons is now the vice wing commander of the 152nd Airlift Wing in Reno. Franks will continue to fly the F-35 with the 6th Weapons Squadron.

"This is an unbelievable opportunity," Franks said. "The Virtual Test and Training Center is an incubator where we can make things happen."

Franks, 39, a native of Portland, Ore., joined the military in 2003 after graduation from the University of Idaho. He served at bases across the country including in Florida, Texas, South Carolina and Arizona before landing in Nevada.

Early in his career, he flew the F/A-18C Hornet and was a Weapons and Tactics Instructor (WIT) before transitioning to the F-35 in 2016. While flying the F-18, Franks recorded deployments to Iraq (2008-2009), Afghanistan (2012) and the western Pacific. He graduated from TOPGUN in Fallon in 2010 as a Strike Fighter Tactics Instructor (SFTI).

After converting to the F-35, Franks moved to Nellis

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Medical News

Nevada Air Guard conducts medical training in Okinawa

By Senior Airman Matthew L. Greiner 152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs



Members of the 152nd Medical Group, Nevada Air National Guard, along with 146th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, and 146th Medical Group from the California Air National Guard at Channel Islands, completed July 28, a weeklong Military Facility Annual Training to temporarily backfill active duty military.

The 152nd Medical Group, Nevada Air National Guard, along with 146th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, and 146th Medical Group from the California Air National Guard at Channel Islands, completed Monday a weeklong Military Facility Annual Training to temporarily backfill active duty military.

The MFAT took place during the permanent change of station time frame, which temporarily left the hospital short staffed and presented a need for the Air National Guard to provide temporary medical support.

"This is the first time that the Air National Guard has entered into Okinawa to do any form of medical training in this country," said Chief Master Sgt. Jason Farnsworth, 152nd Medical Group superintendent.

The medical personnel worked at 15 different medical units and operated at five separate locations during the exercise.

"The MFAT is a fantastic opportunity for the Air National Guard, both for Reno and Channel Islands," said Lt. Col. Jim Vogus, flight physician, 152nd Medical Group. "It gives real world training and facilitates a joint operation experience. We benefit from real world training, they benefit from extra man power."

More than 30 airmen were involved in the exercise working a variety of professions: clinical specialties, including family medicine, pediatrics, aerospace medicine, laboratory services, dental hygiene, emergency medicine, critical care, hospital medical surgical inpatient care, optometry care, inpatient mental health, pain management, flight medicine, sports medicine and post anesthesia care.

"The Air National Guard is able to fill some critical gaps during our PCS season," said Lt. Jesse Pendergrass, administrative officer, U.S. Naval Hospital in Okinawa Japan.

The cost savings to U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa was about \$200,000, said Maj. Jasmin Quioconsa, chief nurse, 146th Medical Group.

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State News

Tallest Airman makes short work of marksmanship match field

Photo and Story by Sgt. 1st Class Studenicka Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs



Master Sgt. Michael Moore poses for a quick photo at this year's Nevada Guard Adjutant General's Marksmanship Match where he accumulated 566 points to take first place.

HAWTHORNE – At first glance, most people would feel confident guessing which sport Master Sgt. Michael Moore – the tallest Airman in the Nevada Guard at 6 feet 10 inches tall – excelled in while attending Reno's Hug High in the early 2000s.

But the answer of basketball is wrong. Despite dabbling in hoops his freshman year for the Hawks, Moore (Class of 2003) found himself drawn to the rifle team, where he earned three varsity letters, was named second-team All-State, and set a Hug High match scoring record. His early exposure to marksmanship led to a lifelong passion for the sport and laid the foundation for the skills that earned Moore, 34, of Reno, the Adjutant General's Marksmanship Match overall title in August at the Hawthorne Army Depot.

"Shooting is definitely the one activity I put the most time and energy into, whether I'm in uniform or not," said Moore, who has maintained his shooting passion

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Advertisement for Youth Resilience Camp, southern Nevada, held from 13-15 Sep 2019.

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