

MONTANA NATIONAL GUARD

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Press Release # 09-25

Date: July 23, 2009

For Immediate Release

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MONTANA NATIONAL GUARD FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

Fort Harrison, Mont. – In recognition of its hard work and dedication, the Montana Army National Guard Construction and Facilities Management Office received national recognition recently at the national Facilities Engineering Management annual conference in Indianapolis, Ind. Major James Hesterberg accepted the award on behalf of his staff and the State of Montana.

Hesterberg and his team of 40 employees were the recipients of the prestigious Fred Aaron Award for excellence in facilities programs. It is a first for the State and the Montana Army National Guard.

On June 18th, Hesterberg was presented with the award during the annual Construction and Facilities Management conference. In addition, Hesterberg's team also received the Most Improved Construction Facility Management Office in Region VI and the Best Installation Program in the Facilities Engineering Advisory Council Region VI award.

In the world of the Army National Guard, the United States is organized into 7 FEAC (Facilities Engineering Advisory Council) regions. Montana is in Region VI, along with Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and both North and South Dakota. The Fred Aaron Award, which is issued by National Guard Bureau, Army Installations division, recognizes the best performing facilities program in the nation.

‘It was completely unexpected,’ Hesterberg said. ‘I was just expecting to have a good educational experience at the conference, which I did, but then our directorate was recognized as ‘Top Team’ in the nation. I was completely taken by surprise.’

Army facilities programs manage construction projects, existing building issues, land sales, reconstruction needs, historic holdings, as well as many other structural related tasks. All of this equates the management of millions of federal dollars annually. This requires the CFMO to be well educated, well organized, detail oriented and supported by an outstanding team. The three awards say it all for this office staff and program.

‘This award is a testament to all of the hard work of the entire facilities staff and their dedication to providing the best in facilities for the Soldiers of the MT ARNG.’ Hesterberg wrote. ‘They are responsible for planning future facilities, constructing new facilities, and operating, maintaining, and keeping record of almost 2,000,000 sq ft of current facilities. To accomplish this is without a doubt a team effort and to be recognized in this way for their hard work definitely is well deserved.’

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One of the most junior facility management offices in the nation, Hesterberg is one of only four majors holding the position in the Army National Guard, which includes 54 facilities offices/programs. "Most of the FMOs are Lt. Colonels or Colonels," Hesterberg remarked. "I really enjoy the diversity of this job and don't mind the long hours. Along with this masters program, I stay pretty busy."

Facilities programs are measured by a point system, with 1000 being the maximum. In 2008 the Montana office achieved 712 points or a Bronze rating. The points for 2009 have not yet been released.

The awards the Montana FMO received included nice mounting plaques, a letter to the State's Adjutant General, and a traveling trophy, with the title 'The Best Installation Management Program, Fiscal Year 2009.

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