

NEWS RELEASE
GOVERNOR STEVE BULLOCK
STATE OF MONTANA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Bullock Announces 219th REDHORSE Squadron Deploying to Support
Flood Relief Efforts in Colorado**

HELENA - Governor Steve Bullock approved the mission for thirty-one airmen assigned to the Montana Air National Guard REDHORSE Squadron to deploy to the state of Colorado through an Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) request. They will be supporting Operation Sapper Fury, with their primary mission being the repair of critical roadways in areas cut off by recent widespread flooding in the Lyons and Estes Park areas of Colorado.

"Montanans can be proud that we are able to lend a helping hand to our fellow Western state when they need it most," said Governor Bullock. "This group of highly skilled Montana National Guard Airmen will provide essential engineering capabilities to help repair roadways and clear transportation obstructions caused by flooding. This not only helps Coloradans, but it also provides great training for our guardsmen's duties back home in Montana."

The Montana National Guard Airmen will be ordered to State Active Duty on Thursday, October 10th and will begin movement to Colorado on Friday, October 11th. The 219th is expected to be on State Active Duty for up to 18 days, and will return to Montana on October 26th. The Airmen will be providing additional capabilities to the existing engineering forces from the Colorado and Utah National Guard and the Colorado Department of Transportation.

"Providing this critical engineering support to the citizens of Colorado during their time of need demonstrates the versatility and necessity of the National Guard," said Major General Matt Quinn, Adjutant General for the Montana National Guard. "While we primarily stand ready for the immediate needs of Montana's citizens as well as federal requirements, we are happy to help our neighbors in Colorado reestablish their critical infrastructure. The 219th REDHORSE Squadron is an extremely well-trained unit with worldwide engineering deployment experience. The opportunity to deploy to Colorado offers these Montana National Guard Airmen an outstanding experience to work within a joint operational environment while honing their individual engineering skill sets."

The 219th REDHORSE Squadron is organized within the Montana Air National Guard and capable of supporting a wide range of engineering tasks. The deployment will not cost the State of Montana any money.

For more information, contact Maj. Tim Crowe at 406-324-3009, 406-461-6889 or SMSgt Eric Peterson at 406-791-0226 or 406-899-9909.

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