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Montana Air National Guard Wins Three National Awards

Max S. Baucus
Senator * or Department*: **BAUCUS**

Instructions:
Prepare one form for insertion at the beginning of each record series.
Prepare and insert additional forms at points that you want to index.
For example: at the beginning of a new folder, briefing book, topic, project, or date sequence.

Record Type*: **Speeches**

MONTH/YEAR of Records*: **February-2005**
(Example: **JANUARY-2003**)

(1) Subject*: **Defense**
(select subject from controlled vocabulary, if your office has one)

(2) Subject* **National Guard**

DOCUMENT DATE*: **02/01/2005**

(Example: **01/12/1966**)

* "required information"
Montana Air National Guard Wins Three National Awards

The Air National Guard has recently made us particularly proud in Montana. Under the leadership of Colonel Mark Meyer, our 120th Fighter Wing has been honored with three national awards for 2004 — the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, the Outstanding Security Forces Squadron of the Year Award, and the Maintenance Group Effectiveness Award.
The National Guard is proving to be the backbone of our efforts to protect America overseas, and they continue to play a pivotal role in homeland security. Two-thirds of Montana's Air National Guard are part-time citizen soldiers and their sacrifice is not going unnoticed. I'm proud that I have the opportunity to reemphasize their contribution here today.

The Air Force Outstanding Unit Award recognizes the exemplary achievements of the entire 120th Fighter Wing. On short notice the Wing deployed more than 200 airmen to the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing at Balad Air Base, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and at home they activated 185 people to fight Montana's second largest wildfire season on record.
The Air Force also bestowed an award on the Wing's Security Forces squadron, under the direction of Squadron Commander Major Donald Mahoney. They were honored with the Air National Guard Security Forces Unit Award. Among their standout achievements was the logistical support they provided to the South Dakota Air National Guard Security Forces while their members conducted field training exercises at Fort Harrison in Helena. And, once again, our guardsmen operated on short notice. Their Combat Arms Specialists performed weapons qualifications for over 300 personnel in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. They completed these tasks while protecting the Northern border between Montana and Canada and collaborating with
Montana's local, civil, and military emergency services agencies.

Under the leadership of Maintenance Commander Lieutenant Colonel Kendall Switzer, the members of the 120th Fighter Wing Maintenance Group earned the Air National Guard's Maintenance Effectiveness Award for their extraordinary aircraft maintenance. Their hard work and expertise supported three important missions: Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Alert Detachment at March Air Reserve base in California, and the Combat Air Patrol Missions of Operation Nobel Eagle.

I offer a tremendous "Well Done" to the Air National Guard. Thank you to your families, friends, employers
and communities. The nation appreciates you and in Montana we are proud of our 120\textsuperscript{th} Fighter Wing.

Congratulations!