

**NEW NEBRASKA AIR GUARD STATE  
COMMAND CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT  
TO ASSUME NEW POSITION, SUNDAY**

**RELEASED BY  
CAPT KEVIN HYNES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

LINCOLN, Neb. – The Nebraska Air National Guard will welcome a new command chief master sergeant to the top Air National Guard enlisted position in the state during a change of authority ceremony scheduled for 11 a.m., Sunday, July 15, at the Nebraska National Guard air base in Lincoln.

Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Lafontaine, Gretna, will assume the post of state command chief master sergeant from Chief Master Sgt. Brad Novak, Lincoln. As command chief master sergeant, Lafontaine will serve as the senior advisor to the adjutant general and other Air National Guard senior leaders on all issues affecting the state's approximately 950-member enlisted force.

In assuming the position Lafontaine will become just the second Nebraska Air National Guardsman to hold the position in the state's newly organized Joint Force Headquarters. A native of Harkness, N.Y., Lafontaine said he is humbled to assume the new post.

"It's an awesome responsibility to be able to represent the enlisted members of this organization and ensure that they have the resources they need to accomplish their mission," said Lafontaine.

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Note: The media is invited to attend the change of authority ceremony scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. on Sunday, July 15, at the Operations Auditorium, Nebraska National Guard air base. A public affairs official will be on hand to assist.