

WARRIOR

Year of the B-2

Serving the Whiteman Community Vol. 4 No. 9

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is the
"bomb"
Pg. 5*

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Advocacy
supports
new parents
Pg. 6*

*Mustache
Madness
Pg. 10*

**Welcome Lt. Gen. James M. Kowalski
to Whiteman AFB!**

Change of Command

Col. Francis takes control of 131st Bomb Wing Pg. 3



February 2013 Courts-Martial, Article 15s, and Discharges

In February 2013, one Whiteman Air Force Base member was sentenced by Court-Martial, six were punished under Article 15; Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), and six members were administratively separated from the Air Force.

Court-Martial(1)

A Senior Airman from the 509th Maintenance Squadron was tried and found guilty by a General Court-Martial for violation of UCMJ Article 120, Sexual Assault, Indecent Conduct, Indecent Exposure and Article 128 Assault Consummated by Battery. Punishment was a reduction to Airman Basic, 25 years confinement, and a dishonorable conduct discharge.

Article 15s (6)

An Airman First Class from the 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron received an Article 15 for failing to obey a lawful order. Punishment was forfeiture of \$250.00 pay per month for two months, 30 days extra duty and a reprimand.

A Senior Airman from the 509th Maintenance Operations Squadron received an Article 15 for being absent without leave. Punishment was a suspended reduction to Airman First Class, forfeiture of \$250.00 pay per month for two months, and a reprimand.

An Airman from the 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron received an Article 15 for failing to obey a lawful order. Punishment was a reduction to Airman Basic suspended, forfeiture of \$200.00 pay per month for two months, 15 days extra duty and a reprimand.

A Staff Sergeant from the 509th Security Forces Squadron received an Article 15 for obstruction of justice. Punishment was a reduction to Senior Airman, forfeiture of \$350.00 pay per month for two months suspended, and a reprimand.

An Airman First Class from the 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron received an Article 15 for driving under the influence. Punishment was a reduction to Airman Basic, 45 days extra duty of which 30 were suspended, and a reprimand.

A Technical Sergeant from the 509th Medical Support Squadron received an Article 15 for disorderly conduct and signing a false official statement. Punishment was reduction to Staff Sergeant suspended, forfeiture of \$400.00 pay per month for two months, and a reprimand.

Discharges (6)

An Airman First Class from the 509th Force Support Squadron received a general discharge for drug use.



An Airman Basic from the 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron received a general discharge for pattern of misconduct.

An Airman from the 509th Communications Squadron received a general discharge for pattern of misconduct.

A Senior Airman from the 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron received an honorable discharge for failure to meet fitness standards.

A Senior Airman from the 509th Security Forces Squadron received an honorable discharge for failure to meet fitness standards.

A Staff Sergeant from the 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron received an honorable discharge for failure to meet fitness standards.

THE WARRIOR

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This Week in 509th Bomb Wing History

David Easley
509 Bomb Wing Historian

7 Feb 1995: B-2s dropped the first live bombs in the aircraft's operational history while participating in their inaugural Red Flag exercises at Nellis AFB, Nevada. This was also the first nighttime B-2 sortie during Red Flag operations.

12 Feb 1996: The 509th BW conducted a generation exercise, which included the first ever B-2 taxi exercise, in response to an exercise emergency action message.

12 Feb 2002: The first two female B-2 crew members, Capts. Kristin E. Goodwin and Jennifer Wilson, flew their first B-2 sorties.



Welcome to
Whiteman,
Lt. Gen.

James M. Kowalski



The 509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs Office has launched a new mobile app called MyMC2. MyMC2 is an app that centralizes all of your installation's community events, organizations and services right in your pocket, allowing Service members and their families to easily access all kinds of community and organizational information. Android users can download the app using the QR code on the top and iOS users can use the code on the bottom.



On the cover

National Guard Photo/
Staff Sgt. Sean Navarro
Missouri National Guard Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Stephen L. Danner, presents Col. Michael J. Francis, incoming 131st Bomb Wing commander, with the unit guidon. Francis assumed command of the 131st at the change of command ceremony at Whiteman Air Force Base, March 3.

NEWS BRIEFS

FIRST Robotics

Warrensburg High School needs volunteer mentors for its FIRST Robotics Team. Our team is looking for mentors who have experience in engineering, business, and graphics and would be willing to work with high school students. For more information, contact Brian Holmgren at 660-441-5080 or via email at bdholmgren@embarq-mail.com

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The Public Affairs Office accepts story ideas for news and feature articles on people and organizations to help provide recognition of excellence in performance and set forth norms for mission accomplishment.

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For more news briefs, visit <http://www.whiteman.af.mil/news/announcements/index.asp>

WEATHER

Today	Saturday
Mostly Sunny	Chance of Rain
Hi 58	Hi 61
Lo 33	Lo 43
Sunday	Monday
Chance of Rain	Mostly Cloudy
Hi 52	Hi 42
Lo 48	Lo 31

Courtesy of National Weather Service

Francis assumes command of 131st Bomb Wing



National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Sean Navarro

Major Gen. Stephen Danner, Col. Mike Francis, Col. Greg Champagne, and Command Chief Master Sgt. Rich Pingleton stand ready to complete the 131st Bomb Wing change of command, Mar. 3. Colonel Michael J. Francis, the new 131st commander, replaced Col. Champagne, who now serves as the assistant adjutant general-air for the Missouri Air National Guard. Congratulations to both Col. Champagne and Col. Francis!

By Staff Sgt. Meiko Schill

131st Bomb Wing Public Affairs

The National Guard's only B-2 unit gained a new commander Sunday, when Col. Michael J. Francis assumed command of the 131st Bomb Wing here at Whiteman Air Force Base.

Col. Gregory Champagne, assistant adjutant general-air, announced the decision last month.

"Col. Francis brings over 23 years of military service and over 14 years in the Missouri Air National Guard," he said. "He was the first Air National Guard B-2 operations group commander, and most recently served with distinction as my vice wing commander. He is the right choice to move the 131st Bomb Wing from a transitioning unit to an operational unit."

Missouri National Guard Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Stephen L. Danner, presided over the ceremony and thanked Champagne for his service, before praising Francis and the men and women of the 131st.

"The mission that you have here takes extraordinary people, which this hangar is full of. But it also takes extraordinary leaders, NCO and the SNCO ranks, and commanders," Danner said.

The traditional exchange of the colors provided visual confirmation of the change of leadership. Champagne handed the blue guidon to Danner, who in turn handed it to Francis, signifying the passing of command.

After Francis assumed command, he thanked the distinguished guests, his family, and 131st Airmen.

"What you do every day is important. It's important to our state and important to our nation. That you do it well is critical to our success," he said.

Francis also thanked his predecessor.

"On behalf of the men and women of the 131st Bomb Wing, thank you for your tireless efforts in transitioning our unit from its proud Saint Louis heritage to one of the nation's premier bomb wings. You have put the 131st on solid ground here at Whiteman," he said to Champagne.

Francis left the men and women of the 131st with one final challenge. "This is your wing, not mine. You make it the wing that you want it to be. You make it go, you make it great, you make the difference. I look forward to serving alongside all of you, and have every confidence in our continued success."

Stuhr receives Air National Guard recruiting recognition



National Guard Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Mary-Dale Amison
Colonel Mike Francis, 131st Bomb Wing commander, presents Senior Master Sgt. Wendy Stuhr with a plaque from Air National Guard Bureau recognizing her contributions to recruiting efforts for the 131st BW. She facilitated and approved recruits' medical transcripts for incoming enlistments, working on her own time to get the mission done.

131st Recruiters are tops in Air National Guard



National Guard Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Mary-Dale Amison
Colonel Mike Francis, 131st Bomb Wing commander, presents the Air National Guard Region II FY 13 1st Quarter Award for the wing with the top accessions to the 131st Bomb Wing Recruiting Section. Master Sgt. Melissa Lakin and Tech. Sgt. David Greenberg accepted the award on behalf of the unit.

Women's History Month impacts all Airmen

By Heidi Hunt
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Without the historical contributions of women in the military, the Air Force culture and society would not be the same.

On March 1, 1987, Congress passed a resolution designating March as Women's History Month.

Since the early days of the Women's Auxiliary Corps, to the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron, our mothers, sisters and wives have helped make this nation strong.

During this month, we take special opportunities to salute those who served and continue to serve.

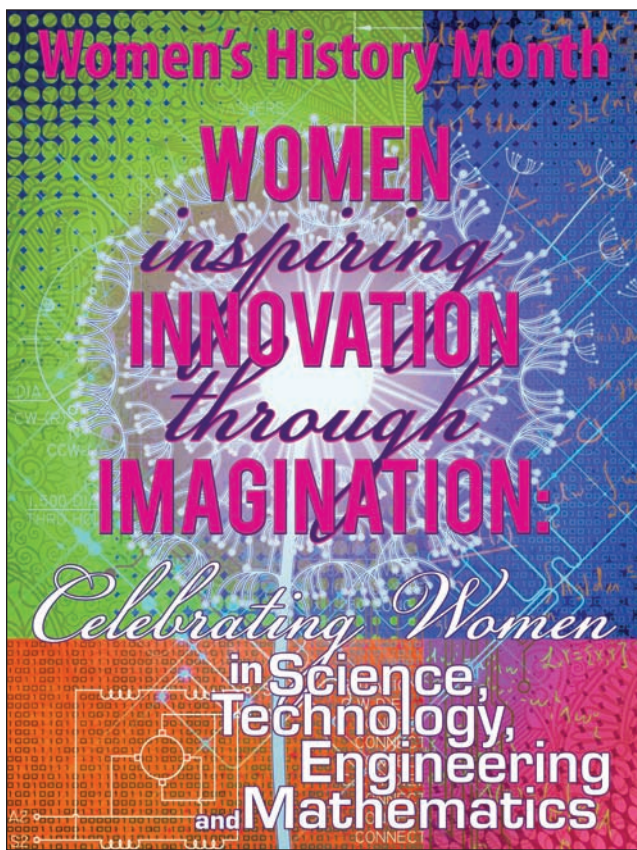
"Women's History Month is a way to focus on the contributions...of women through education and awareness," said Tech. Sgt. Maurice Ingram, 509th Bomb Wing Equal Opportunity NCOIC.

The theme for 2013 is "Women Inspiring Innovation Through Imagination."

Ingram suggests that one way we can applaud military women is by acknowledging their past contributions and encouraging their input in charting the course ahead.

"The military is in a stage right now where it's ever-evolving, in a way that we have to do more with less in every branch of the service," Ingram said. "Observances are a great opportunity to bring attention to the featured demographic."

"Women have come a long way...by breaking down walls and the rank structure," said Staff Sgt. Samantha Branch, 509th Bomb Wing Equal Opportunity advisor. "There's a lot more female generals and pilots compared to what it was years ago."



Throughout history, women have taken on more leadership roles, and are now more recognized for their opinion, advice and leadership roles, she said.

Compared to earlier in his career, Ingram now sees more female group commanders and squadron commanders in ca-

reer fields traditionally led by men.

"Many of the women were in the medical field or in force support," he said.

Branch said there are females she has looked up to over the years and some who have made impacts in her life throughout her military career.

"A significant role model in my life was Chief Master Sgt. Teldra Jones," she said. "I looked up to her and went to her for career advice, and I felt she really cared about her Airmen... She made a positive impact on my life."

Seeing the contributions of other women, past and present, is a source of inspiration for Branch.

"I admire women serving in the military," she said. "It makes me proud to see positions being filled by women... [female] leadership in the military has inspired me to take an active role in my leadership position."

Branch also recognizes the importance of other women's service in providing chances for others.

"I feel that I have the opportunities to move forward," said Branch. "It is an honor for me to be able to stand on their shoulders to serve, because if it wasn't for the women who came before me, then women would still be in the positions that we were in before."

Ingram said he think it is important to remember what the observance is about – learning something, and more importantly, learning something new.

"With observances, we don't only have the opportunity to learn something but also have the opportunity to highlight demographics who serve with us," Ingram said. "When we stop celebrating the victories, then we forget how far we've come and how the history could be inspirational to someone else."



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THINK SAFETY!

EOD is the BOMB

By Airman 1st Class Keenan Berry
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Explosive devices – for years they have plagued our troops overseas, and they can pose a threat at home, too. One group of dedicated Service members at Whiteman is devoted to mitigating that threat.

That team is EOD.

The 509th Explosive Ordnance Disposal team trains every day to prepare for any situation and to defeat explosive devices, said Senior Airman Christopher Dahmen, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron EOD team member.

EOD's mission is to support the B-2, and they do so by ensuring weapons feasibility on the aircraft. If a malfunction occurs with the weapons rack, they check it.

Nobody plans to find a bomb or stumble on an improvised explosive device, but when it happens, EOD responds to the situation.

In confronting explosives, EOD technicians make use of substantial personal protective gear, namely the bomb suit.

"Bomb suits are a bigger version of body armor. Bombs can be approached in or [out of] this equipment, depending on the situation at hand... We are going to be wearing some type of protective equipment whenever we work on explosives."

For safety reasons, two or more personnel must be present to conduct operations, said Staff Sgt. Scott Underdahl, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron EOD team leader. If something happens to an EOD tech, another member must be able to provide medical assistance or contact emergency personnel.

Additionally, EOD personnel are equipped not only with safety assets they can wear, but also ones they can drive.

Over the years, explosives responder teams have worked with technology, leading to the development of robots which can be used to disarm bombs, which presents far less risk to the Service member.

Whiteman's EOD team utilizes two main robots – the Air Force Medium-Sized Robot (AFMSR) and the F-6 robot, both of which enable them to accomplish the mission while keeping unit members more protected. These mechanical allies can roll right up to an IED or other explosive and determine its size, components and other features, providing valuable intelligence to EOD personnel.

The history of EOD began in World War II, when teams had to disarm bombs themselves. During WWII, explosive devices presented new and unique challenges for the armed forces.

"...Bombs did not always go off," said Underdahl. "There's a bomb laying there that did not go off; it is still a hazard because they didn't know why it did not explode and when it will explode. When the soldiers walked up to a bomb that did not explode, it blew them away... People needed to take care of these bombs that did not go off..."

This reality laid the foundation for the birth of explosive ordnance disposal teams, he said.

"During the WWII time period, bombs were new and no one knew how to deal with them or had even heard of them," Underdahl said. "Now the explosives have evolved over time, and now we have a library of explosive devices; we can train on them, our techniques are similar, we just have a lot more tools..."

Explosives can turn up in the most unlikely places, so safety is everyone's responsibility, whether EOD or not. Everyone has a responsibility to alert other Airmen that a "dead," or unexploded, bomb, is in the area. If someone spots a "dead bomb," he should alert his fellow Airmen, and immediately contact EOD, who will handle it.

At the end of the day, serving as an EOD requires nerves of steel, and a desire to keep other Service members safe. Whether deployed or at home station, these gritty and determined Airmen are a vital component of Air Force safety and security.

For more information, please contact EOD at 660-687-4423



Airman 1st Class Jeff Kinney, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal team member, studies the effects of an improvised breaking charge, Feb. 27. This device is used to open up packages, breach armor, and blow up targets.



Airman 1st Class Jeff Kinney, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal team member, performs a function check on the AFMSR and the F-6 robot, Feb. 27. These robots are both designed to destroy improvised explosive devices.



Airman 1st Class Fernando Aguilera, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal team member, examines a foreign, WWII-era land mine, Feb. 27. This mine is designed as a defensive weapon to explode when stepped on.



Airman 1st Class Fernando Aguilera, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal team member, measures the point of impact of the standard slug, Feb. 27. The point of impact is where the slug is supposed to hit, and measurements have to be precise for the bomb to be safely defused.

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Family Advocacy – providing support for new parents

Airman 1st Class Shelby R. Orozco
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

When a couple first finds out they are pregnant, a lot goes through their minds. Is it going to be a boy or a girl? Is it going to look more like Mom or Dad? After the initial excitement dies down, though, worry may start to set in, and that is where the Family Advocacy's New Parent Support Program comes in.

Mae Hertig, 509th Medical Operations Squadron Family Advocacy nurse, works with parents-to-be, in their homes, teaching them the ins and outs of pregnancy and caring for new babies.

"With NPSP, our goal is to prevent maltreatment and shaken baby syndrome in children," Hertig said. "I work with families that are either expecting a baby or that have a child less than three years old."

Hertig begins her process when the expecting parents fill out a packet after finding out a baby is on the way.

"When the family first finds out they are pregnant after taking a pregnancy test within our lab, they are contacted by their primary care nurse and asked to fill out a packet," Hertig said. "The packet asks several questions concerning things like where they live, but it also asks some personal questions like how they grew up, if they were witness to abuse or alcohol abuse within the family. It asks if they are in a safe relationship with their partner – mainly things that could put them at risk for maltreatment within the home. I get the surveys and based on those I try to call everyone I can..."

Hertig provides her services within the family's home, and talks about anything on which the family has questions.

"I worked as an obstetrician for several years, so I do some prenatal-type education," Hertig said. "I talk about bonding with the baby when the baby is in-utero, how important it is that babies can hear starting at 14 weeks and the parents need to talk and sing to the baby."

"I also stress that because the baby can hear, the parents need to monitor their activities and any yelling or stress within the home, because babies, even while in-utero, can pick up on that pretty quick."

Hertig's in-home care does not stop once the baby is born.

"After the baby has arrived, I can go in for more visits and talk about things such as development," Hertig said. "One thing that I think is really fun to teach new parents that they cannot spoil their baby before six months of age. The baby needs to learn that they can trust their parents to take care of them, and the best way to do this is to provide food, nurturing, and a safe, comforting environment with freedom

from threats."

One of Hertig's favorite parts of her job is helping families once their child reaches the "Terrific Twos."

"Around two years old is when children really start showing their personalities," Hertig said. "It's when we find out if they're going to be more of a laid-back person...or if they're going to be the one that is like, 'You know what? Let's get going!' And that is a good thing; no two people in the world are alike."

"I love watching parents see that even though it may not be what they planned for their child, they're going to love them anyways."

Hertig also works to break the cycle of violence for parents that might have experienced abuse during their childhoods.

"If a parent grew up in a home with abuse I want to give them ideas," Hertig said. "Even though they were subjected to that as a child, they can stop that right now and give their children a better chance of having great relationships within the family."

If a family does have an issue with abuse or maltreatment, Family Advocacy offers a unique way to help them repair their relationships, said Capt. Gena Parkman, 509th MDOS Family Advocacy officer.

"If there is unreported domestic violence or maltreatment going on, we offer restricted reporting similar to that of Sexual Assault Response coordinators," Parkman said. "It gives people the opportunity to disclose if there is something going on in the home, and help[s] the family find a way to address it without it getting worse and involving command."

Although the reporting is kept as restricted as possible, in the event of immediate danger it cannot be kept restricted, said Parkman.

"It's specific to the level of lethality," Parkman said. "If there is a high risk for someone within the family to end up seriously injured or worse, we cannot offer restricted reporting. It's all about contacting us and letting us know what is going on, because our job is to help families figure out their happily ever after and stay that way."

In addition to the in-home services provided by New Parent Support Program, Family Advocacy has teamed up with partnering agencies such as Airman and Family Readiness Center, Balfour Beatty, the 509th Medical Group and 509th Force Support Squadron to provide classes/groups throughout the year for parents-to-be and new parents. The classes/groups include Dads-The Basics; Bundles for Babies; and the Whiteman AFB Breastfeeding Support Group.

For more information on the New Parent Support Program, available classes or other community resources, please contact Family Advocacy at 660-687-4341.



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Tuskegee Airmen celebrate Black History Month



Staff Sgt. Cass Vaughn, 509th Medical Operations Squadron public health craftsman, speaks with George Dunmore, member of the Heart of America Chapter Tuskegee Airmen, during a Black History Month celebration honoring the Tuskegee Airmen at Whiteman Air Force Base, March 1. Several members of the chapter and one original Tuskegee Airman attended the ceremony.



Maj. Krista Grey, 509th Medical Group, admires the Congressional Medal of Honor replica coin during the reception honoring the Heart of America Tuskegee Airmen Group in conjunction with the celebration of Black History Month here at Whiteman Air Force Base, March 1. The chapter presented a short documentary film giving a perspective on the segregation the Tuskegee Airman endured during World War II.



Members of the 509th Medical Group honored James Shipley, a crew chief with the 332nd Fighter Group who served in Europe during a reception at the Whiteman Medical Group facility, March 1. The medical group personnel hosted a reception prior to the screening of a video produced by the Heart of America Tuskegee Airmen Group.

U.S. Air Force photos/Staff Sgt. Alexandra M. Boutte

509th Civil Engineers: Keeping structures strong

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Nick Wilson
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

(Editor's note: This is part one of a three-part series about the 509th Civil Engineer Squadron Heavy Repair section.)

As Mother Nature's resources naturally break down with time, so does the infrastructure on base. Buildings age, pipes wear down and other vital assets require replacement.

This creates a balancing act for unit facility managers as they try to perform their primary duties and juggle the multiple issues that make buildings seem as if they are constantly falling apart, said Staff Sgt. Adam Boyd, 509th CES structural supervisor.

"Everything you see on base is constantly aging," Boyd said. "Part of our job is to fight the aging process, to keep the buildings looking as new as possible."

Without the structures shop, the entire base would decay, said Boyd.

He works with a team of 33 Airmen and civilians who construct, remodel, repair and maintain over 4.8 million square feet of facilities across Whiteman, whose total value exceeds \$1 billion.

"We provide service for every facility, from the gym to the docks on the flightline," said Senior Airman Michael Rafael, 509th CES structural journeyman. "Everything that stands up is our responsibility, except housing."

Ensuring the B-2 Spirit can provide global response to world emergencies 24/7 is the flight's number one job, said Boyd.

"One example of how we ensure global response is by making sure that when maintainers press the 'open' button on the hangar, the door opens," Boyd said. "If it doesn't open, we'll get out there as fast as possible for that aircraft to launch and get where it needs to go."

A large part of the structures mission is maintaining buildings that are

mission-essential.

"By maintaining facilities where mechanics work on the B-2 Spirit and its weapons systems, we play a part in keeping the planes flying so we can get the bombs where they need to be," Rafael said.

On top of the mission-essential aspect of the job, the flight also provides support for base functions and snow removal.

"Our shop was also responsible for putting up security fences at the 2012 Wings over Whiteman air show, which had more than 40,000 spectators from all over the world in attendance," Rafael said.

When the shop is not providing snow-removal support, they are performing various jobs requested by facility managers across the base, said Rafael.

"If there is a garage door that isn't opening correctly, or if an entry control gate goes down, we'll come fix it," he said.

Sometimes, after a full work day of keeping buildings on base in one piece, the saga will continue. Structures Airmen can be called at any time to respond to emergencies after duty hours.

Whether the work is being done during duty hours or not, however, maintaining structures is not cheap, Rafael said.

"During some fiscal years, we have to stretch things and make them happen on a limited budget," Boyd said. "Other years, we can afford to renovate office spaces that are a little run-down and could use some sprucing up to boost morale. If we have the money, we do it."

Instead of purchasing parts online, the members of the flight fabricate their own resources to provide timely maintenance.

"Paying a company to make materials could be quite expensive," Boyd said. "It saves a lot of money if we make resources ourselves."

One major project the flight recently completed was the add-on of a garage door to a facility used by B-2 mechanics. They were tasked to perform the project because it is too cold for the mechanics to complete their mission in the snow, said Boyd.

"It was just too cold for the human body to function properly in that kind of element," he said. "Now that we've closed the building, those mechanics can get components into the aircraft in a faster, more reliable manner."

Since the tasks flight members perform affect every shop on base, they maintain knowledge and proficiency in tasks that include, but are not limited to, metal fabrication, welding, woodworking, carpentry, brazing and masonry.

"Our skills are very important because when we go out on a job, the work we might have to do could be completely different than what is said on the work order," Rafael said. "You can go to a location thinking, 'Oh I just have to fix a door,' but when you arrive to the location you'll notice that there is a brick wall around the door that's causing the issue. So that's where the knowledge of masonry and other skills come[s] in."

Structures Airmen need to be well-rounded because the wide range of tasks they perform keeps them on their toes, said Boyd.

"We have to be ready for anything and everything," he said.

Traveling to locations all over the base on a daily basis to provide facility maintenance also allows Airmen to see the final products they have created, which Boyd said is one of the most rewarding parts of the job.

"There are a lot of jobs where you'll file papers and when you walk away, you don't get that visual impact of what you did for the mission," he said. "When I'm working on jobs, I'll drive away from the base and think to myself, 'Man, that building wasn't there when I first drove on base and I did that.' There aren't a lot of career fields in the Air Force that give you that."

From the repair of ceiling tiles, to the maintenance of various vault doors where mission planning occurs, everything structural Airmen are responsible for is critical to Team Whiteman's mission and morale, said Boyd.

"We're ready to go and tackle anything Whiteman Air Force Base needs," Boyd said. "You could probably get by without us for a little while, but eventually time will make your door snap off or make your tiles peel up. And that's where we come in."



Staff Sgt. Adam Boyd, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron structural supervisor, dips a brush in polyurethane before polishing a wooden door, Feb. 27. The polyurethane prevents moisture from absorbing into the wood.



Albert Cote, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron carpenter, uses a compound miter saw to cut a piece of wood for a door frame, Feb. 27. The door frame will be used to repair a temporary lodging facility.



Members from the 509th Civil Engineer Squadron structures flight discuss procedures for snow plow repair, Feb. 27. The flight constructs, remodels, repairs and maintains 861 base facilities totaling over 4.8 million square feet.

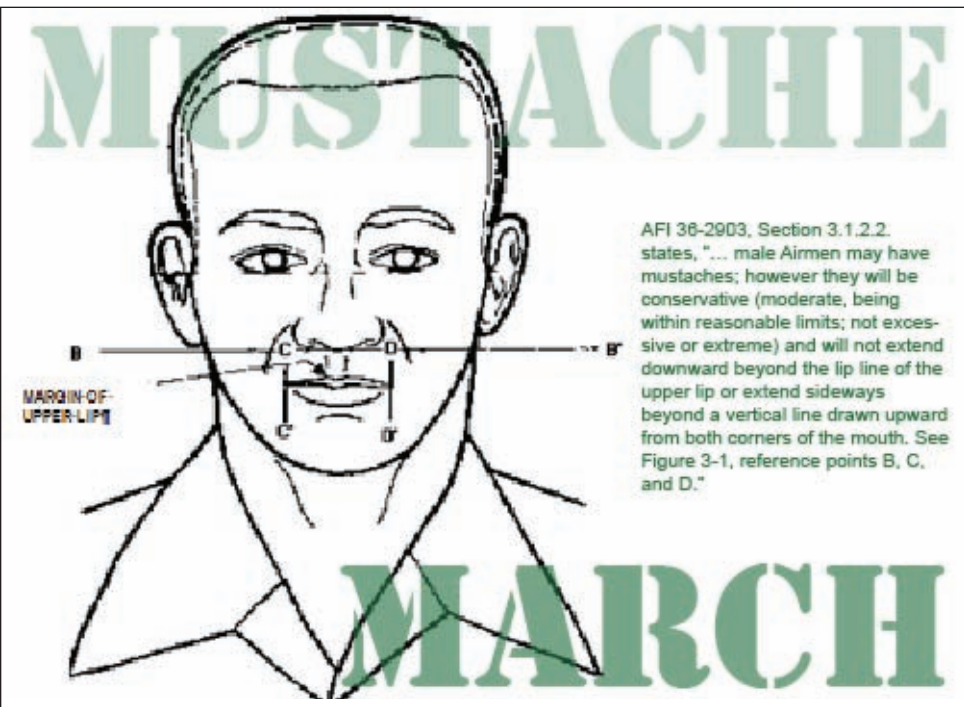


Albert Cote, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron carpenter, cuts a piece of wood for a door frame with a compound miter saw, Feb. 27. Cote works with a team of professionals responsible for performing all aspects of carpentry and masonry, including sheet metal, wood and welding work.



Senior Airman Michael Rafael, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron structural journeyman, welds a box blade for a snow plow, Feb. 27. Structural journeymen are responsible for maintaining knowledge and proficiency in metal layout, metal fabrication, welding, cutting, brazing and locksmithing.

Mustache Madness



U.S. Air Force graphic/Senior Airman Torey Griffith
AFI 36-2903, Section 3.1.2.2. states, "... male Airmen may have mustaches; however they will be conservative (moderate, being within reasonable limits; not excessive or extreme) and will not extend downward beyond the lip line of the upper lip or extend sideways beyond a vertical line drawn upward from both corners of the mouth. See Figure 3-1, reference points B, C, and D."

By Airman 1st Class Bryan Crane
 509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

As March rolls around, Team Whiteman may notice more and more facial hair around base. This is no coincidence, as some members on the base will be participating in Mustache March.

Some may be thick and full, some may be small and shaped, and some may not even resemble a mustache at all. Either way, the month promises to be fun, and a great morale builder for Team Whiteman.

This month-long tradition of mustache-growing prowess dates back to the Vietnam War, while the military mustache itself has even deeper historical roots.

Some claim the military 'stache started with Alexander the Great, the legendary king of Macedonia from 336-323 BC, and conqueror of the known world, who was said to have shaved his beard on the day of battle, leaving just the mustache, which he adorned with field rat's teeth.

Another famous warrior who sported the "lip sweater" was Genghis Khan, leader of Mongolia from 1162-1227 AD. Khan's facial hair of choice was the "Fu Manchu." He is even quoted as saying, "A mustache is the mark of a warrior. It is a symbol of a strong heart and akin to likes of the dragon."

However, the Air Force's Mustache March all began with Gen. Robin Olds, a triple-ace fighter pilot, and his "bullet-proof mustache," which he grew during a deployment to Vietnam. According to legend, the forbidden facial hair that fighter pilots believed made their aircraft

bulletproof became tradition in 1965. Despite regulations, Olds decided to respectfully question the status-quo. So in March that year, Olds grew out his mustache, and the tradition was born.

In April, when Olds returned to the states, he was immediately ordered by Gen. John McConnell to shave it off. Ever since, pilots across the force have dedicated the month of March to paying tribute to Gen. Robin Olds and his bulletproof 'stache.

The tradition continues with pilots here at Whiteman, but members from other squadrons on base have also joined in on the fun.

"It's a great morale builder for the base," said Steven Lengfellner, 13th Bomb Squadron information assurance officer. "It's all for good fun and helps break up the time between the snowy winter and the rainy spring."

Lengfellner, a retired master sergeant, has sported a mustache since he was 15 years old, and has only shaved it three times since.

"I would like to see some of these guys keep it a little longer, because most of them shave it right away - if they even last the whole month," Lengfellner said. "At the same time, though, I would say be who you are. If the mustache isn't for you then don't keep it, but enjoy it while March lasts."

As March is underway, the mustaches will already be in full swing here at Whiteman. Let's see who can pull off the best mustache, but remember to keep in mind AFI 36-2903. With that in mind, go make Gen. Olds proud.

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509th BW Security Forces Volunteers Install Security Cameras at Animal Shelter

Submission by the City of Warrensburg

Several members of the 509th Security Forces Squadron volunteered to install security cameras alongside the Warrensburg Police Department at the Warrensburg Animal Shelter, Feb. 5.

Senior Airman Chris Noble, 509th SFS member, contacted Police Chief Bruce Howey to inquire if there was a volunteer project he and fellow airmen could be a part

of. Howey said there was an in-house installation project pending, which Noble said he would be happy to assist with.

"I love the feeling I get from helping others and being able to bring security to our community," Noble said. "Working with the Warrensburg's Police Department was an amazing experience."

Senior Airman Chris Noble, Senior Airman Charles Quinsay, Senior Airman Veronica Gallegos, Senior Air-

man Jamecia Smith, Airman First Class Christian Diaz-Centeno, 509th SFS airmen worked non-stop until the system was installed that day for a total of 30 volunteer hours.

Howey asked Mayor Don Butterfield to present City of Warrensburg coins to the airmen in appreciation for their efforts.

The project saved the Warrensburg taxpayers more than \$8,800 compared to the cost of having a security company provide and install the equipment.

My daughter - my hero: A resiliency success story

Commentary by

Maj. Michelle Suberly

Air Force Global Strike Command
Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La. (AFNS) -- As we recognize American Heart Month this February, I am struck by the thought that heroes and role models don't have to be older than we are. I need only look to my 12-year-old daughter Renae. When Renae was a few hours old, she started turning blue. Within a few hours she was diagnosed with a rare congenital heart defect - Ebstein's Anomaly. Amazingly, she was home after only one week with no medications, monitors or oxygen.

At 13 weeks of age, her heart rate jumped to almost 300 beats per minute in an abnormal pattern, an arrhythmia common with her heart defect. Over the course of the last 12 years she has been on medications to control her heart rate, aspirin to prevent strokes, surgical procedures to eliminate the heart rate issues, and had her valve surgically repaired. Through it all, she has become a high achieving student and competitive gymnast, which would have seemed impossible, even to her doctors.

While this has been a life-long issue for Renae, the last year and a half has truly inspired me. In October 2011, Renae had her third surgery to try to eliminate the rhythm issue. When we returned for her follow up a month later, she was in the abnormal rhythm, but it was at such a low rate, we didn't notice. Once again the surgery didn't work.

Renae was frustrated with yet another hospital stay and return to medication. Then she started talking to other kids in the hospital playroom, including one who had been in the hospital for several weeks and expected to be there several more. With that perspective, her attitude quickly perked up. In January 2012, Renae had her fourth surgery to eliminate the heart rhythm issue (so far successful). She competed in a gymnastics meet the very next week. Everything was falling into place.

Then, in February 2012, she fell off the high bar during practice and fractured both bones in her lower right arm. While most kids would have mo-

ped around, she was back at the gym two days later doing leg lifts, sit-ups, anything she could do to keep the rest of her body in shape. She even learned how to do one-handed back handsprings with her non-dominant left hand. Seven weeks later, the cast came off, but she still was not allowed to do a full practice. When Renae was finally cleared for practice, she had only one practice left before scheduled open heart surgery. She gave it her all during that practice.

As we approached the day of her open-heart surgery, I was a nervous wreck. Her heart defect is so rare, very few surgeons will even touch it. The doctor was going to have to rebuild her valve and move it two inches higher, where it should have been in the first place. Renae wasn't worried at all; she trusted that God would protect and heal her. She was at peace, and way stronger than the rest of her family.

Her attitude and strength from gymnastics paid off as she was ready to leave the ICU a day earlier than expected -- they had to scramble to get a room ready on the regular floor. She had surgery on a Thursday and was home Tuesday, and was forced to take ibuprofen to control inflammation even though she wasn't in pain. Six weeks later, she was off all medications and back in the gym. Within a few weeks she regained every skill she had before the broken arm four months earlier.

On Feb. 9, 2013, Renae competed in our home gymnastics meet and won first place in the vault, uneven bars and all-around in her age group for Level 5 (levels go 1-10). She was shocked and the look on her face was priceless. A week later, she did it again in a meet in Arkansas, and with her sisters Jessica and Elizabeth, led her team to a first-place finish.

Renae has overcome so many challenges in her short life. When she won at those meets, it was a victory over those challenges and a victory over her heart defect. Her love of life, her fighter spirit and her faith keep her from staying sad or giving up. I only have to look at my miracle daughter and realize that I can overcome any setback and do the things that others tell me are impossible. She is the model of resiliency. She is my hero.



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Chief MSgt.
Grace Peterson
AF FIRST FEMALE CHIEF

Graphic by Sylvia Saab

Grace Peterson: AF first female chief master sergeant.

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. (AFNS) -- In 1960, Chief Master Sgt. Grace Peterson became the first female chief master sergeant. She was not only the first female chief master sergeant; she was part of the original group of senior NCOs to be selected for the rank of E-9.

At the time of promotion, Peterson was the first sergeant of a 400-person Women in the Air Force, or WAF, squadron at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.

Chief Peterson entered military service in New York City soon after the Dec. 7, 1941, attack that thrust America into the World War II and joined what was then called the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in 1942.

During an interview at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in 2010, Peterson said, "I joined because of the horrors of Pearl Harbor and I felt I had to do something about it."

Peterson recalled the first momentous day she entered WAAC as a boot trainee. She was sent to the first WAAC training center, which she called hastily established, at Fort Des Moines, Iowa.

The "genius" who prepared these facilities to receive the first females into the military will forever command her admiration, she said.

"Male OD coats were issued and trailed in the snow for the shorter girls. None of us needed mittens for the sleeves completely enveloped our arms," she said.

Four weeks later, she was assigned as company clerk to the second WAAC

training center at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., and in less than one year the "boot trainee" had risen to the rank of first sergeant.

To this date, Peterson maintains the "boot" expression derived from the heavy brogan shoes she had her charges wore in those days. After experiencing the rigors of basic training and a tight academic schedule - first as a pupil and later as an instructor- the precedent establishing experience of the veteran of six months was considered too valuable to relinquish.

She had, so to speak, found her niche in the Army...to greet and train the women volunteers who had followed her in steadily increasing numbers.

At this point in her career, Peterson said, "I was not only proud of my personal good fortune, but I felt an immense pride of my sex. Many of the volunteers we received - some a great deal older than myself- were college graduates and had established civilian careers but chose, instead, to serve with the armed forces. And I think the record points out the caliber of service women performed during the war."

Throughout the war years, Peterson remained in the United States except for a period of duty at Ladd Field, Alaska.

She served during both Victory over Europe (May, 7 1945) and Victory over Japan (Aug. 14, 1945) days.

(Courtesy of the Air Force Enlisted Heritage Research Institute. Staff Sgt. Zachary Wilson contributed to this article.)

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Join other members and non-members enjoying food and beverage specials! Call 687-4422 for more information.

SATURDAY 3/9

Outdoor Rec is open on Saturdays!
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MONDAY 3/11

Seniors Bowling-10am-1pm- Bowling Center
Seniors join in bowling for only \$1 games. Share some coffee and breakfast with your friends! Call 687-5114 for more info.

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FCC NEWS

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MARCH 29
7-10PM

Ages 13-18
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131st Bomb Wing welcomes new chief!



National Guard Photo by Staff Sgt. Meiko Schill

Col. Michael J. Francis, 131st Bomb Wing commander, congratulates the 131st's newest chief, Chief Master Sgt. Alvin Sims, during a ceremony held at Mission's End, March 2.

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Misc. For Sale 135

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Houses For Sale 249

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Townhouses For Rent 213

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#88474



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SAVE OVER \$11,170

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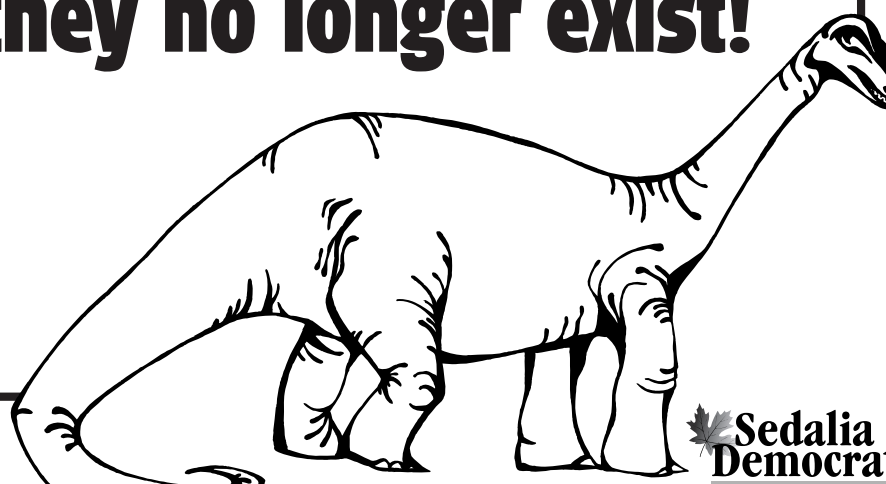
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