

"The United States remains steadfast in its alliance commitment to the defense of the Republic of Korea ..."



# Global Power Over Korea

B-2s participate in Foal Eagle, pg. 3

### **Commentary**

### Rosie the Riveter and me

**By Staff Sgt. Alexandra M. Boutte** 509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

As we recognized Women's History Month this March, I was struck by the thought that heroes and role models do not have to be one single person but, in fact, can be several people. For me, this truth is especially relevant.

During World War II, many women opted to take on male dominated trades to support their family while their husbands fought in the war. This was a stark change from an era in which women typically held a position as housewives.

It was in this era that "Rosie the Riveter" was first born. In 1942, Veronica Foster, an actual woman, and who had the previous year became the face of Canada's women in the war effort as "Ronnie the Bren Gun Girl," donned the red bandana and rolled up her sleeves for Canada's neighbors to the south.

"Rosie the Riveter," as she known was soon the iconic image of women entering the workplace and taking up the industrial jobs in support of the nation.

The poster itself spiraled into a multi-dimensional inspiration. Originally, it was meant to represent the millions of woman employed at shipyards and manufacturing plants, who were developing the nation's military arsenal and assembling war supplies.

Shortly after, Redd Evans and John Jacob Loeb wrote a song in tribute to "Rosie," which became very popular.

"All the day long, Where rain or shine She's part of the assembly line. She's making history, Working for victory Rosie the Riveter"

Even today, "Rosie's" signature expression and inherent strength are an inspiration to millions of Americans, myself included.

I first learned about "Rosie" when I was seven. My mom handed me a magazine to look through and I saw the bright yellow and blue background overlaid with a girl showing her muscles. I was so intrigued by the girl in the red polka-dot bandana.

From that moment on, I constantly asked my parents who she was, what she did and why she did it. I wanted to be exactly like her when I grew up.

I pushed myself hard in high school. During those years, we learned my mother had brain cancer, while my father's health would go from bad to worse. I needed to learn to support myself in any and every way possible. I needed to be independent. I applied myself to school, extracurricular activities and several different jobs.

My parents signed the papers for me to enter the Air Force at the age of 17. Three weeks after I graduated high school, I was on a plane headed to San Antonio, Texas for Basic Military Training

Although I do not get my hands dirty on an assembly line every day the way "Rosie" did, I still pull my hair back tight, use my hands to get the job done for our military and provide for my family

Every time I felt I could not do something, whether in BMT or at my duty station, I remembered the millions of women who rose above and conquered what others thought they could not.

As I was being yelled at by my instructors in



Courtesy graphic/Smithsonian Institute

"Rosie the Riveter" is the iconic image of women entering the workplace and taking up the industrial jobs in support of the nation during World War II. Even today, Rosie's signature expression and inherent strength are an inspiration to millions of Americans.

BMT, I would tell myself, 'I can do this. I can do this.' I did not want to let them or myself down.

My mother passed away at my first duty station and shortly after that my father passed. During those times, I kept a positive attitude. I needed to; it was who I was, and who I needed to be.

I had a "can-do" attitude and knew I was not alone; thinking of "Rosie" helped me get back up on my feet and continue to do good things with my life and become a better Airman.

I am a wife of a military member, a mother of two and a full-time Airman myself. I give 100 percent in every aspect in my life. I am a real life "Rosie."

Recently, I received a tattoo of "Rosie" on my right arm as a symbol of how I became who I am today. "Rosie" taught me that all people,

not just women, can do anything they want as long as they set their mind to it—and history shows that.

World War II represented a major turning point for women as they eagerly supported the war effort and the long-term significance of the change brought about by the war provided the foundation for the contemporary women's movement.

Although women have made tremendous progress during the past 50 years, "Rosie the Riveter" still stands as a beacon of inspiration and determination

The "We Can Do It" poster means so much to women in America—a symbol that illustrates both the proud legacy of heritage, and the challenges they will continue to face, and conquer, in the future.

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To advertise in The Warrior, call the Sedalia Democrat at: 1-800-892-7856.

### On the cover

U.S. Air Force photo

A file photo of the B-2 Spirit stealth bomber shows the aircraft over the Pacific Ocean in 2005. Two B-2s from the 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., recently participated in an extended deterrence mission to the Republic of Korea. March 28, 2013.

Map: Courtesy of the University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin.



News March 29, 2013

### **NEWS BRIEFS**

### Town Hall meeting

The 509th Bomb Wing commander, Brig. Gen. Thomas Bussiere, will host a town hall meeting at the Mission's End, April 3, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the main ballroom. All military members, civilians and their spouses are invited. If you have any questions, please call Lt. Col. Brian Zembraski at 660-687-3537.

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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.

To submit an idea, call 660-687-6123, or email whiteman.warrior@ us.af.mil

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

#### WEATHER

#### **Today** Mostly Cloudy Chance of Storms Hi 56 Lo 41

Sunday Mostly Sunny Hi 60 Lo 40

Hi 61 Lo 43 Monday

Saturday

Chance of Snow Hi 37 Lo 36

### **B-2** bombers conduct extended deterrence mission to the Republic of Korea

U.S. FORCES KOREA -- U.S. Strategic Command sent two B-2 Spirit bombers from Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., to the Republic of Korea March 28, for a long-duration, roundtrip training mission as part of the ongoing bilateral Foal Eagle training exercise, demonstrating the commitment of the United States and its capability to defend the Republic of Korea and to provide extended deterrence to our allies in the Asia-Pacific

The two B-2 Spirit bombers, assigned to 509th Bomb Wing, demonstrated the United States' ability to conduct long-range, precision strikes quickly and at will, flying more than 6,500 miles to the Korean Peninsula, dropping inert munitions on the Jik Do Range, and returning to the continental U.S. in a single, continuous mission.

The United States is steadfast in its alliance commitment to the defense of the Republic of Korea, to deterring aggression and to ensuring peace and stability in the region. The B-2 bomber is an important element of America's enduring and robust extended deterrence capability in the Asia-Pacific region.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Master Sgt. Mary-Dale Amison A B-2 Spirit stealth bomber from Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., takes to the skies Feb. 10, 2013. The B-2 is a long-range nuclear and conventional bomber that can fly at high subsonic speeds at altitudes up to 50,000 feet. Its un-refueled range is at

### AF's top lawyer: Special Victims' Counsel supports sexual assault victims

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- The Air Force's top lawyer testified Mar. 13 before the Senate Armed Services Committee's personnel subcommittee on sexual assault in the military and ongoing efforts to combat the problem.

The Judge Advocate General, Lt. Gen. Richard C. Harding, was joined by his fellow service counterparts and the Defense Department's Acting General Counsel, Robert S. Taylor, as well as the DOD's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response

The group vowed to do whatever it takes to end sexual assault in the military and a big part of that, Harding said, is supporting victims.

"We believe that if victims know there is somebody on their side as they go through this complicated process that can be very exhausting, we'll see more of them come forward," Harding said during the hearing.

Surveys conducted by Air Force officials show a large majority of victims never report sexual crimes.

"Our Special Victims' Counsel operates independent of the prosecution's chain of command; they establish attorney-client relationships and zealously advocate on their clients' behalf ... thereby protecting victims' privacy and immeasurably helping victims not feel re-victimized by having to endure (the military justice process) alone," Harding said.

Additionally, Taylor testified that the DOD is building a structure to address sexual assault in the military, and changes in the legal arena are in the works. The DOD



U.S. Air Force graphic

General Counsel's Office is working with the services' Judge Advocates General and DOD's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office "To make our judicial, investigative and support structures more efficient, effective and responsive to the rights and needs of victims, while preserving the rights of the accused," Taylor said.

In the Air Force, these changes include the creation of the Special Victims' Counsel Program.

According to officials, this program provides sexual assault victims with their own military attorney to provide them legal assistance and help navigate the criminal justice system. These lawyers are trained to handle sexual assault victims' unique

"It takes a strong team to succeed in our mission to protect and defend the nation, and sexual assault undermines that," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III. "It's devastating to those involved. The Special Victims' Counsel will provide victims of sexual assault with a better understanding of the criminal process from an expert who is specially qualified to represent the victim. This program embodies what the Air Force is all about -- taking care of our people."

(Courtesy of Air Force News Service and American Force Press Service)



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.



The Warrior
March 29, 2013

### News

## On the radar with Whiteman weathermen

Story and photos by Airman 1st Class Keenan Berry 509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Weather can be an unpredictable and uncontrollable force of nature. This makes it all the more difficult for the 509th Operation Support Squadron weather flight to do its job.

This flight is responsible for predicting what happens before it happens. Because the weather can change at any given time, it is difficult to always provide an accurate prediction. Weather personnel are constantly keeping watch on the skies and oceans to ensure Whiteman gets the information it needs to be prepared for all kinds of conditions.

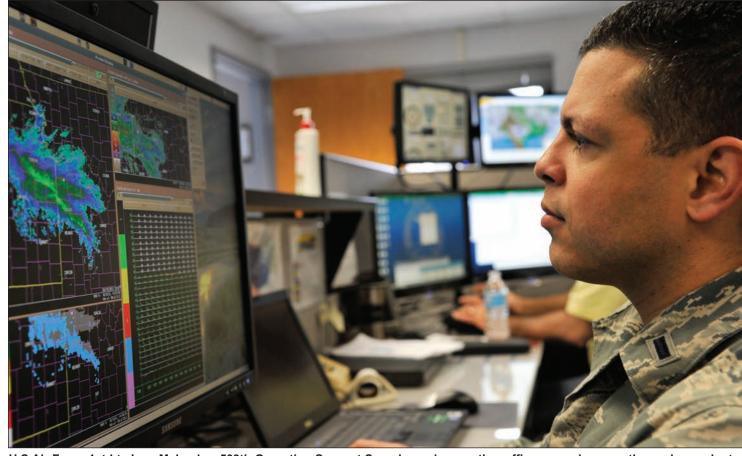
Weather personnel are responsible for flight planning, resource protection and all watch and warning advisories, said Tech. Sgt. Ryan Watts, 509th OSS NCOIC of mission and airfield services. They brief pilots preparing to take off from the base, giving them a weather outlook. This includes air refueling tracks and range forecasts; if the pilots are flying overseas, they brief on ditch headings, wave heights and sea-swell heights.

In addition to their work with Air Force brethren, said Watts, weather personnel also communicate with the Army and Navy to give and receive weather data. In addition to providing the weather report for B-2 pilots, they perform all the forecasting for Army aircraft, A-10 Thunderbolts and all personnel on base.

Many other factors can affect the Whiteman mission at a moment's notice. One minor factor can cause a change in the atmosphere, said 1st Lt. Jose Melendez, 509th Operation Support Squadron weather wing officer.

"In South Korea, there are rice paddies, (fields full of water where farmers grow rice), that cause fog in the atmosphere, which affects the weather," said Melendez. "All it takes is one factor to make a change in the entire atmosphere. In an ocean, anything that happens on one level, at some point is going to reflect on another level, which can change the dynamics. These are reasons why weather is so unpredictable."

In addition to the unpredictable nature of weather, pilots must account for the changing weather conditions when they are in the air, and be aware of the effects it may have on the air-



U.S Air Force 1st Lt. Jose Melendez, 509th Operation Support Squadron wing weather officer, examines weather radar readouts, Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., March 20, 2013. Radar sensors send out pulses to provide weather personnel with information on incoming clouds, precipitation, winds and other natural occurrences.

craft, said Senior Airman Heather Rieck, 509th Operation Support Squadron weather journeyman.

For example, in the 1950s, the dangers of icing were not fully understood, and therefore, Airmen could not adequately protect their aircraft..

For aircraft flying in the freezing temperatures thousands of feet above the surface of the earth, icing is a constant threat.

"The T-38 jets cannot fly through clouds because depending on how cold it is, it may cause icing which may weigh it down; this plane is not equipped to de-ice," said Rieck, "Lots of planes have the de-icing equipment but back in the '50s they did not."

Weather personnel in the '50s were not equipped to handle certain weather effects that plagued aircraft, said Melendez. The work was difficult but they were dedicated enough to get the job done and provide answers for Whiteman Air Force Base.

Weather professionals used slide rulers to calculate dew points, atmospheric pressure and wind speeds. They also used anemometers to pick up wind speeds, but these instruments were not accurate most of the time.

Equipment has evolved to the point where one machine, the TMQ-53, can perform the functions of both the slide ruler and anemometer, enabling personnel to achieve more accurate readings. Kertrel sensors and radar also have improved weather technicians' ability to provide information on weather patterns.

Weather personnel have a significant role in the Whiteman mission,as pilots would be un-

able to complete their mission without pi-reps or warning advisories. Whiteman needs weather advisories to plan for these inconveniences that occur throughout the year. At the end of the day, Whiteman's weathermen are another team responsible for keeping the B-2 in the air.

For more weather information, please visit https://owsjet26.us.af.mil/portal/private/Guest-WhitemanAFB/Sensor

> Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs. 8:30am-7pm

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U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Heather Rieck, 509th Operation Support Squadron weather journeyman, examines a slide rule, Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., March 20, 2013. Before the extensive use of computers, a slide ruler was used to calculate temperature, dew point, atmospheric pressure and wind speeds.



### Story and photos by Airman 1st Class Bryan Crane

509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

With a weight of 160,000 pounds, the B-2 Spirit can be a hard object to slow down. The 509th Maintenance Squadron hydraulic shop's mission is working on the brake system that brings the B-2 to a halt.

"We are in charge of maintaining all hydraulic systems on the jet," said Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Elms, 509th MXS NCO in charge of hydraulic systems. "That includes flight controls, landing gear and brakes that are important to the flight safety of the B-2 and T-38 Talon."

Elms said the hydraulic systems allow the aircraft to fly missions safely, securely and effectively while maintaining Air Force Global Strike Command's mission of global deterrence.

"Essentially our mission is to support Global Strike Command's global reach capability," Elms said. "We do this through direct support to the B-2 airframe for mission execution, and to the T-38 airframe for aircrew proficiency sustainment."

The hydraulic shop has also recently designed and added a new spin riveter machine that has increased their capability to repair T-38 brakes.

"Our section designed the adapter plate that was locally manufactured," Elms said. "We can now perform in-house repairs that normally have been shipped off base to a depot."

Elms added that keeping repairs in-house

helps turnaround time on the repaired parts and saves money by cutting the cost of sending parts to an off-base location.

The hydraulic shop conducts scheduled maintenance on each aircraft after approximately every 1,000 flight miles, and performs the same rigorous work during inspections, as well.

"We remove and reinstall landing gear actuators for scheduled maintenance during phase inspections," Elms said.

Along with the landing gear maintenance, these phase inspections require the technicians to do a complete look-over of the aircraft.

"The phase inspections allow us to make sure the aircraft is safe for all future flights," said Elms. "We take a hard look at our hydraulic systems and ensure there are no issues that might otherwise go unnoticed."

Each day these Airmen provide the aircraft with the ability to strike at a moment's notice. With this in mind, it can take these Airmen more than a year to be fully qualified to complete all hydraulic systems maintenance.

"The technical training school that we go through is a six-week long course," Elms said. "Most of our training is done at your base because the difference in the aircraft."

After technical training, Airmen will conduct on the job training to fully qualify for their 5-level certification.

Elms said he is thankful he gets to work with his team members every day.

"My Airmen are the best at what they do," Elms said. "They're a group of hard working guys with great energy and a positive at-



Senior **Airman** Dowler, 509th Maintenance Squadron hydraulic systems repair technician, teaches Airman Trevor Alder, 509th MXS hydraulic systems technician, how to properly seal off a B-2 Spirit brake part at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., March 22, 2013. The hydraulic shop conducts scheduled maintenance on each aircraft after approximately every 1,000 fliaht miles.



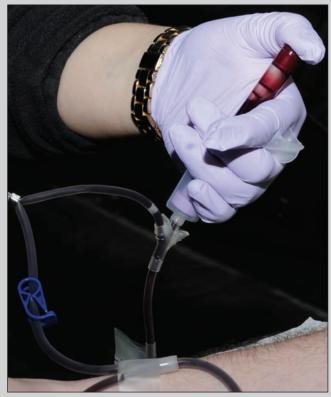
Senior Airman Travis Dowler, 509th Maintenance Squadron hydraulic systems repair technician, tightens a wire during a brake overhaul at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., March 22, 2013. Dowler was conducting a complete overhaul of the B-2 Spirit's brake system.



Senior Airmen Travis Dowler (left), Airman Trevor Alder, and Airman 1st Class J.C. Hutchins, 509th Maintenance Squadron hydraulic systems repair technicians, work together to complete a B-2 Spirit brake overhaul at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., March 22, 2013. The hydraulic shop maintains all hydraulic systems on the aircraft, including flight controls, landing gear and brakes.

### News

### Give blood, save lives



Lindsay Dujakovich, Warrensburg Community Blood Center member, places Senior Airman Gary Rosveck's, 509th Maintenance Squadron low observable maintainer, blood in several vials for testing during a blood drive at the Community Activity Center on Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., March 15, 2013. The American Red Cross will be hosting a blood drive May 15, 2013, at the CAC.





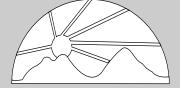
ABOVE: The Warrensburg Community Blood Center hosted a blood drive March 15, 2013 at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., for Airmen to donate their blood. There will be another blood drive May 15, 2013, at the Community Activ-

LEFT: Lindsay Dujakovich, Warrensburg Community Blood Center member, draws Senior Airman Gary Rosveck's, 509th Maintenance Squadron low observable maintainer, blood at the Community Activity Center on Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., March 15, 2013. Rosveck attempts to donate blood every year to help others in need.

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

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VFW Auxiliary–1st Fri. each month 7 p.m. - VFW Building

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Feature
The Warrior March 29, 2013



Courtesy photo

1st Lt. Diana Wong, assigned to the 509th Force Support Squadron at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., takes a moment to appreciate the sunrise on Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Feb. 11, 2013. On the last day of the hike, the group set off at 11:30 p.m. to make it to the peak nine hours later to catch the view.

### Senior Airman Brigitte N. Brantley

509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

On Feb. 14, 1st Lt. Diana Wong found herself standing atop Mount Kilimanjaro, the tallest mountain in Africa, and the largest free-standing peak in the world.

Just three months earlier, she had been burnt out from work and a full-time graduate school course load. After seeing a pamphlet for the mountain, she made a decision -- it was time to mix up her life.

"Everyone thought it was kind of nuts for me to be doing this alone, but I needed to escape the monotony my life had fallen into," said Wong, 509th Force Support Squadron officer in charge of food services. "Work and school were wearing me down, and I had long dedicated all my time to studying. This was something I had wanted to do for a while, so I decided to just jump in."

Although she had ventured abroad before -- Thailand and Japan last year, China during college – this was a new type of adventure for her. There are many routes climbers can take to reach one of the summits, and this 50-mile guided trip would take Wong five days to complete.

With only weeks to prepare, 2nd Lt. Lauren Venturini, fellow 509th FSS officer, helped her get in climbing shape.

"She knew I was a fitness enthusiast, so when I heard she wanted to climb Kilimanjaro, I wanted to train her," said Venturini. "A lot of the workouts we did were highintensity, and focused on strengthening her legs and improving her cardio. We did a lot of lunges, squats and sprints.

"We hiked through state parks with weighted backpacks," she added. "When it was too cold outside, we switched it up and did incline work on the treadmill. She was going to be climbing Kilimanjaro, so we wanted her to be ready."

In addition to all the physical preparations, Wong had to mentally ready herself and pack all the gear she would need. This included trekking poles, good boots and socks, waterproof and thermal under-layers, a day pack and sleeping bag, for starters

After preparing all she could in those few weeks, Wong got on a plane. From the moment she touched down, the decision she had made to pick up and get out of Dodge, at least temporarily, was justified.

"There was no Wi-Fi, no phones, no outside communication," said Wong. "Being disconnected helped me be totally present in, and surrounded by, nature. I got to know the other people in my group really well."

The other nine members of her tour group were an eclectic collection of people from around the U.S. ranging in age from 24 to 75. They were accompanied by a chef, guides and porters who carried their gear. They quickly bonded as a group as they began their ascent.

The "overall average of successful ascent to the peak is 45 percent," according to National Geographic. At its peak, Kilimanjaro towers over 19,340 feet tall.

"Most people aren't used to being at that elevation and you don't know how your body will react," she said. "Even if you have a strong body, you're still only using a portion of your lung capacity and that can take a toll. On the way up, we saw two people being carried down on stretchers. Although it never crossed our minds to turn back, it really drove home the fact that death was a possibility."

Also according to National Geographic, "an estimated 10 to 15 deaths occur annually on the mountain from severe altitude sickness, hypothermia, falls and other medical problems."

Even healthy people completely prepared to climb the mountain can fail. What got Wong through the climb was her faith.

"When you're walking trails for hours and hours, it's hard to know where your mind will wander," she said. "After a certain point, I was so exhausted and knew I couldn't rely on my body or mind anymore. I had to rely on God to carry me through. My faith pushed me toward the summit, and I don't know where I would be without it."

Throughout the hike, they took breaks

often while still keeping a steady pace. The weather varied. Wong recounted one 30-minute period in which they encountered rain, wind and snow, all just minutes apart.

The final day of the ascent, the crew

set out at 11 p.m. to make it to the peak at around 8:30 a.m. -- just in time to see the legendary sunrise from Kilimanjaro's Uhuru Peak.

"Standing there exhausted and realizing

I had made it to the top was an unbelievable feeling," said Wong. "When we started our descent and I started getting more oxygen in my system, I really realized, 'My goodness. This is what I've accomplished."

Wong added that her fellow climbers en-

Wong added that her fellow climbers encouraged her and helped her learn the joy of traveling. She has future ventures planned for New Zealand and the Himalayas.



Courtesy phot

1st Lt. Diana Wong, bottom, assigned to the 509th Force Support Squadron at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., gets to know school children in Tanzania, Feb. 16, 2013. After reaching the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, she spent time exploring the local communities.



Courtesy photo

1st Lt. Diana Wong, third from left, assigned to the 509th Force Support Squadron at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., poses with part of her group after they reach the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Feb. 14, 2013. The group of 10 climbers was accompanied by local guides, a chef and porters who carried their gear.



Courtesy phot

1st Lt. Diana Wong, center, assigned to the 509th Force Support Squadron at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., poses with her guide, Tom, after reaching the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Feb. 14, 2013. Wong said she made the journey to immerse herself in nature and escape the monotony of everyday life.

The Warrior March 29, 2013 The Warrior March 29, 2013



Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Sanford, 509th Security Forces Squadron NCO in charge of supply, performs an inventory check on security forces equipment in the supply warehouse at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. March 20, 2013. Sanford issues, tracks, prepares and maintains \$3.2 million of security forces equipment.

Staff Sgt. Travis Bledsoe, 509th Security Forces Squadron patrolman, tries on a new plate carrier as Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Sanford, 509th SFS NCOIC of supply, oversees, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., March 20, 2013. Sanford issues 20 to 25 pieces of equipment to each new member that arrives to the squad-



ply warehouse at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., March 20, 2013. Sanford is responsible for equipping more than 500 Airmen with proper

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 Security Forces Squadron.)

When it comes to supplying the mission, many people often think Logistics Readiness is the primary go-to for all Whiteman

Not so for the 509th Security Forces Squadron.

Security Forces' mission is to defend stealth firepower, U.S. resources and the Whiteman community "anytime ... anywhere." With 24-hour security coverage, the unit resembles the Energizer Bunny because it never stops -- "it just keeps going and going and

However, Defenders cannot accomplish their mission without the right equipment. That is where the 509th SFS supply section

"We acquire, maintain and issue more than \$3.5 million of supplies and equipment for more than 525 Airmen," said Tech. Sgt. Roger Scott, 509th SFS NCOIC of supply. "Without their equipment, Defenders can't do what they need to do to allow the B-2 Spirits to perform their mission.'

Scott works in a warehouse where, in addition to office supplies, he issues almost every piece of gear needed for police services, training and other SFS duties. When Airmen initially arrive to the squadron, he issues them approximately 20 to 25 pieces of

"They all will carry a tactical vest with magazine pouches, ammo, weapons and night-vision goggles," said Capt. Gabrielle Benedict, 509th SFS officer in charge of supply. "If they're carrying a heavy weapon, they'll also have a secondary weapon. On the law enforcement side, they'll have all of that plus their law enforce-

Attention to detail is a big deal when it comes to providing equipment that helps Airmen protect lives and assets, said Benedict.

"For example, just two years ago we bought new boots," Benedict said. "We specifically said we wanted boots without the metal toe because if you're standing out in the freezing cold all day, waving traffic or on the flightline, the metal toe will pretty much nullify the fact that you're wearing cold weather boots."

Benedict and Scott are also in the process of purchasing new plate carriers that are 10-15 pounds lighter than the current carriers.

"Ten or 15 pounds of difference makes Airmen a lot more mobile," Benedict said. "It's really hard to run when wearing a 25- to 35-pound vest, plus all the ammo and all the weapons, versus 10 or 15 pounds off, which will make a difference not only in the mission but the long-term health benefits."

Airmen can develop back and knee problems from carrying hefty plate carriers over an extended period of time, which can be a major negative factor in their long-term health, she said.

"People can get injuries even just from an exercise because we play the way we fight," Benedict said. "If you hurt yourself during an exercise, it doesn't help the mission."

Whether it is ordering new plate carriers or new boots, making sure Airmen have the correct equipment that has also been vetted and approved by the Air Force is a major challenge for the supply mission, she said.

"When you have the wrong equipment, it not only affects a Defender's ability to respond, but it also impacts their quality of life," Benedict said. "If we're not able to get Airmen newer equipment or the equipment is run-down from basic wear and tear, sometimes that's the image they'll have of themselves and the

Benedict also said that an absence of cold weather gear issued by the SFS supply section could easily diminish an Airman's morale.

"You don't want Airmen out on the post thinking to themselves, 'I'm going to work, I'm doing my job and I'm out here freezing my butt off" Benedict said

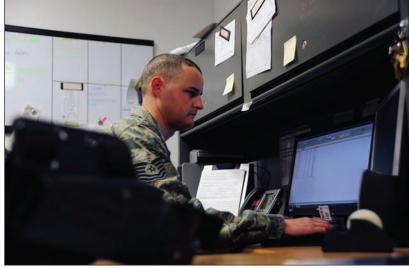
The supply section also plays a big part in various exercises, inspections and B-2 deployments, said Scott. "My section especially comes into play when making sure

Airmen have the proper equipment before going out to support exercises and inspections," Scott said. "I'll make sure that there's nothing that is unserviceable or needs to be replaced."

Whether Defenders are performing a traffic stop or protecting assets on the flightline, they will always be equipped to face whatever challenges arise.

"Our supply section supports the security forces unit," Scott said. "I do what I need to do to make sure Defenders have the best equipment possible to do their job."





Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Sanford, 509th Security Forces Squadron NCOIC of supply, uses a spreadsheet to track inventory items at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., March 20, 2013. The spreadsheet tracks serial numbers, dollar value and quantity of equipment items in the supply ware-

Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Sanford, 509th Security Forces Squadron NCOIC of supply, performs an inventory check on handcuffs at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., March 20, 2013. Sanford is responsible for accountability of more than 5,000 items totaling more than \$3.2 million in value.





Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Sanford, 509th Security Forces Squadron NCOIC of supply, checks the serviceability of a plate carrier at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., March 20, 2013. Instead of using the base logistics readiness squadron to provide equipment to Airmen, the 509th SFS handles all supply matters internally.

### **News**

### From the Frontlines:

### **Senior Airman Victoria Hill**



Senior Airman Victoria Hill, 445th Communications Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron, poses with Dex, an American K-9, during her six-month deployment to Shindand Air Base, Afghanistan, Oct. 25, 2012.Hill volunteered to wear a full-body suit to help the K-9s practice for real-world situations.

#### By Heidi Hunt

509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Communication transformation is perpetually changing to meet today's mission requirements. Many Air Force agencies count on the support of the Communications Focal Point to centralize and fulfill the priorities.

Senior Airman Victoria Hill, 509th Mission Support Group commander's knowledge operations manager, understands this responsibility firsthand, as a major part of her job on a recent deployment was to ensure effective and efficient communication between U.S. forces, coalition forces and contractors.

She returned in January from a six-month deployment with the 445th Communications Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron at Shindand Air Base, Afghanistan, where she honed both her skills and job knowledge.

While deployed, she worked in knowledge operations management, and in the communications focal point as a client services technician and content manager.

"I was the voice between the customer and the Airman working an issue," Hill said. "When I arrived at the 445th, I was told I would be working in the CFP help-desk since they were undermanned. I was a little nervous at first since that is part of a completely different job.

"I worked in the CFP for the first two months of my deployment and then was pulled back to do work in knowledge operations management for the remainder," Hill said.

Hill also had two additional duties -- unit

mail clerk and base cellphone monitor. As a unit mail clerk, she was responsible for picking up personal mail and bringing it back to the unit.

As cellphone monitor, she was responsible for issuing mission required cell phones to personnel and tracking inventory.

Master Sgt. Alicia Maharaj, 509th Bomb Wing KOM superintendent and deployed supervisor, praised Hill's outstanding work ethic, calling her a phenomenal asset to the Air Force.

"She is always positive, professional and has risen and overcame challenges that presented themselves," Maharaj said. "She is the epitome of an Air Force Airman. We need more like her."

Combined with her work ethic. Hill also volunteered to help support an array of base activi-

"I was a member of the base honor guard and participated in a 9/11 flag ceremony, weekly reveille and retreat ceremonies, and unit level change of commands," Hill said.

She also volunteered for over-watch mis-

"I was the security person between the pilot, co-pilot and Afghan passengers," she said. "My first mission was flying from Shindand to Herat twice, bringing back Afghan pilot students to the base for their pilot training."

"During the week in the evenings, we would help Afghan pilot students with their English skills," she said. "Each night was a different activity. One night was game night, which was more relaxing for them, but its goal was more for

See Frontlines, page 12

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### Up and away: 1-135th ARB deploys



U.S. Army AH-64 Apache Longbows from the 1-135th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., prepare March 27, 2013, for their deployment to Afghanistan. The Soldiers and aircraft will stop in Texas for more training before making their way to Afghanistan.

#### Story and photos by Airman 1st Class Shelby R. Orozco

509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Since Whiteman is officially an Air Force base, many people often forget it is home to multiple joint-force partners. One of these is the Army's 1-135th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion.

This unit, which flies the Apache helicopter, maintains a high ops tempo, training constantly to support friendly forces on the ground in combat areas.

On Wednesday, March 27, more than 300 Soldiers from the 1-135th departed for a deployment to Afghanistan to aid in Operation Enduring Freedom. The team will first travel to deployment training here in the United States, and then head overseas upon completing training.

The Soldiers have been heavily preparing for this deployment, said Capt. Derek Forst, 1-135th ARB A-Company commander.

"We just got done with a 30-day gunnery out in Boise, Idaho," Forst said. "We conducted high- altitude mountain training, along with aerial gunnery. We qualified 23 crews."



the 1-135th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., says goodbye to his family March 27, 2013, before his deployment to Afghanistan. Moore and his counterparts will be in deployed for more than a year.

They will be working primarily in combat operations, said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Greg Schulte, 1-135th ARB TACOPS officer.

"Our main mission is to support the ground force commander," Schulte said. "That entails a lot, including convoy security, as well as security for other aviation assets. We will also act as a quick reaction force based upon base security. The mission is broad-set; we're kind of a 'be-all, do-all' team. It really depends on what's going on at the time and we will integrate the best that we can."

As far as day-to-day operations go, the Soldiers are up for anything.

"We could start our day escorting a convoy and then end up closing our day with a close-combat attack," Forst said. "It can change that quickly; we could start one mission and end with a completely different one."

Leading up to this deployment, the 1-135th has been working hand-in-hand with the 442nd Fighter Wing, said Forst.

"We work closely with the 442nd," Forst said. "Last summer we did a lot of training together. They have been outstanding to work with, and we have learned a lot from each other."

"With the war being joint now, or 'purple,' it's a great asset to understand the terminology the different branches use," Schulte said. "Being able to work with them before we arrive in Afghanistan makes things a lot easier."

Even though so many Soldiers will be deploying, normal operations on Whiteman will continue, said Forst.

"There will be a small rear detachment here doing day-to-day operations," he said. "We still have a few people in different schools that will be filling positions while we are gone. There will also be aviators left behind, our brigade headquarters. They will be coming back here and flying, but the tempo is going to decrease a lot."

This deployment will be the second deployment for both Forst and Schulte.

"The worry is always there," Schulte said. "If anyone says they aren't nervous they are probably lying or it hasn't hit them yet. I think the training we have been able to accomplish over the past several months to prepare helps, but there's always going to be a curve ball, something thrown out there that wasn't quite in the plans, and you have to react quickly."

The impact of deployments is felt not only by the Soldiers themselves, but by their loved ones back home, as well.

"During stressful situations, making the right decision at the right time can be hard," Forst said. "I want to make sure our Soldiers are always taken care of, over there and over here and with their families. That's the main part for us. It's a hard toll on the families – they're used to seeing their mom or dad or husband or wife every day, and it's stressful for them."

As National Guardsmen, the Soldiers of the 1-135th are able to leverage skills and abilities from their broad range of non-military experience.

"Because our guys have varied backgrounds, depend-

A U.S. Army AH-64 Apache Longbow crew chief from the 1-135th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., readies his aircraft March 27, 2013, for its deployment to Afghanistan. The 1-135th ARB prepared for this deployment with 30 days of training in Boise, Idaho.

ing on their civilian jobs they bring a lot more to the table," Schulte said. "We have a lot of different experience and a lot of different ways of looking at things, which makes us flexible in how we can use our people to accomplish the mission."

Outside of the mission, the Soldiers can use their skills for personal recreation.

"We can do a lot of things by ourselves," Forst said.
"We have a lot of contractors, plumbers and electricians with us, and we can use them to set up lights and Internet and buildings. We have a lot that we can bring to the table to be self-sustaining."

The members of the 1-135th are very grateful for their place here at Whiteman.

"Whiteman is our home," Forst said. "Team Whiteman has been really great to us. The Deployment Center has supported us with this entire deployment, with moving to Idaho for training and working with us to help scan our baggage and moving to our next location.

"The 509th Bomb Wing has been nothing but helpful. We use a lot of their offices and Whiteman has been an outstanding help and support through all of this."

"Our mission can be diverse," Schulte said. "Our viewpoints are a little bit different, and that is a huge asset to us."

### **News**

### Frontlines Continued from Page 10

them to associate with us and practice English."

Her second mission was from Shindand to Kabul taking Afghan contractors home to visit with their families.

Hill said it was very interesting getting to know one another, exchanging cultural beliefs and telling stories about how they grew up.

"We usually spent an hour with them, but sometimes time would fly and we'd go beyond the hour,"Hill said. "They were always excited to see us again the next time."

Although each day brought new experiences, she took the opportunity to take on each challenge with a positive attitude, going above and beyond the call of duty.

Hill made senior airman below-the-zone, Airman of the month twice, Airman of the quarter and received six coins.

Hill also proffered for the International Security Assistance Force Commander, Marine Gen. John R. Allen, as he pinned bronze stars on soldiers, coined soldiers and airmen and re-enlisted a group of soldiers.

"I enjoyed getting to fire different weapons," Hill said. "I fired the Beretta, .50-caliber M240 machine gun, grenade launchers and rocket launchers, with Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command operators."

Hill also helped security personnel train military working dogs, wearing the bite suit which the dogs latch onto in responding to their train-

Hill said she had a great time on her first deployment and met amazing people from all different branches of the military.

"I made friends that I now consider my family," she said."I got to experience things that I know I wouldn't have gotten to had I not de-



Senior Airman Victoria Hill née Allstott, 445th Communications Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron, poses aboard an aircraft during her recent deployment to Shindand Air Base, Afghanistan, Nov. 26, 2012. Hill returned in January from a sixmonth deployment where she worked in knowledge operations management and the Communications Focal Point.

She said she would definitely deploy again and is hoping to when her band opens up.

"From the Frontlines" is a weekly column highlighting currently deployed Team Whiteman members, or those who have recently returned from deployment. If you or someone you know is deployed or recently returned from adeployment, contact Public Affairs at 660-687-6123 or email whiteman.warrior@us.af.mil.

### This Week in 509th Bomb Wing History

509th Bomb Wing Historian

March 30, 1998: Captains Tony Monetti and Chris Harness, piloting The Spirit of Pennsylvania, dropped the first operational maximum load of Mk-82 500-pound bombs from a B-2. The 40,000 pounds of live conventional weapons were targeted against the Farallon de Medinilla weapons range in the Northern Mariana Islands.

March 31, 1994: At a ceremony held at the B-2 final assembly facility in Palmdale, Calif., the Air Force bestowed the fleet name of "Spirit" on the B-2. Nineteen of the original B-2s were named for states ("Spirit of Missouri," "Spirit of California," etc.), while the other two were named "Spirit of America" and 'Spirit of Kitty Hawk.

April 1, 2003: Captain Jennifer Wilson became the first female to fly a B-2 Spirit combat mission. She was stationed at a forward operating location with the 393rd Expeditionary Bomb Squadron and in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

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6. Print legibly, and place punctuation and spaces where necessary. Use only one word per line.

7. Free ads aren't taken over the phone. They must be dropped off at or mailed to the 509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs Office, 1081 Arnold Ave Blvd, Bldg 59, Whiteman AFB, Mo., 65305. Ads may also be faxed to 660-687-7948.

8. Many offices on base are using old forms\*\*. If you would like a copy of the new ad form to keep in your office, call 687-6123 and we'll fax a new form for your use. Or, you can download it at http://www.whiteman.af.mil and click on "Whiteman Warrior Classified Ad Form." 9. Homes for sale that are listed with a realtor must be paid for. Only people who are PCSing and selling homes FSBO (for sale by owner) qualify as a free ad.

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