

WARRIOR

Vol. 4 No. 36
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What we must remember

Brig. Gen. Thomas A. Bussiere
509th Bomb Wing commander



Brig. Gen. Thomas A. Bussiere

Do you remember where you were when you heard the news on Sept. 11, 2001?

Everyone who serves in today's military is shaped by the events of that tragic day. Some of us had already joined the service – others decided, then and there, to join and help defend our country. For all of us, the events of that day are seared into our memories.

But that will not always be the case. Twelve years have passed since the terrorist attacks in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania. Today's 18-year-old recruits were only six years old then. By the time that recruit is a staff or technical sergeant, we will have 18-year-olds enlisting who were not yet born when the attacks happened.

What will we tell those young souls, for whom our most wrenching national experience is not even a memory? Whose only knowledge of that terrible day will come from study material, history books and old video clips of United Airlines Flight 175 crashing into the south tower of the World Trade Center?

I have a few ideas.

First, I will ask them to look to the men and women standing beside them. Everyone serving today is a volunteer – they made an informed decision to wear their nation's uniform and potentially risk their lives in its defense. Whether

we joined because of the Sept. 11 attacks, or joined many years before, one thing unites us all – a love for our country that transcends individual boundaries.

It has become cliché to note the world changed on Sept. 11, 2001, but that is the simple truth. None of us could have predicted, on Sept. 10, 2001, just how different the world would look the next day.

None of us could have predicted the lives cut short in the attacks on the World Trade Center, the victims in the Pentagon attacks or the brave

men and women who died trying to recover United Flight 93 over Shanksville, Pennsylvania. None of us could have predicted two wars, each lasting a decade or more, costing thousands of more American lives. None of us could have seen what the future – what today – would hold.

But like Americans through our nation's history, we met those challenges head-on. We have made many sacrifices and today our nation stands just as strong as it did on Sept. 10, 2001.

It is not just America's military that makes our country strong, though I like to think we play our part. What makes America strong are the values we hold dear, values that I see every time I look into the eyes of our active duty, Guard and Reserve team. Every time I meet a civilian or contractor working to keep America safe. Every time I visit our local communities and see the overwhelming support they provide every single day, for the men and women who wear our nation's uniform.

A few years from now, when young men and women who were not yet born on Sept. 11, 2001, don our nation's uniform, that is what we must tell them. Not just the story of terrorists attacking our nation, but the story of how our persistence, our sacrifices, and above all our values, defeated those same terrorists.

That is what we must remember for them.

Lead overexposure concern in the local area

By Staff Sgt. Candace Caudill
509th Medical Operations Squadron

When people hear of lead overexposure, most think of children exposed to contaminated toys and old paint. Some people may also think of industrial workers who handle hazardous chemicals. However, a potential lead poisoning threat also exists in some of the hobbies we enjoy. One hobby, in particular, may be putting you at higher risk. You may be getting exposed to concerning levels of lead at small indoor firing ranges in our surrounding area.

You can get lead poisoning from breathing in or ingesting lead particles that are aerosolized when firing ammunition containing lead. After a bullet leaves the muzzle of a gun, gases containing lead particulates are expelled forward, making it easy to breathe in or settle on clothing and skin. With proper ventilation, the amount of lead inhaled is greatly reduced. In a large scale firing range, such as the one on base, workplace practices and structure designs are governed by OSHA regulations. These guidelines require equipment (such as ventilation systems) that helps eliminate the inhalation of lead. However, in small-scale firing ranges, OSHA guidelines do not apply. The state does not have jurisdiction in small facilities to enforce equipment use that can reduce lead exposure. This means your risk for inhalation or ingestion can be much greater.

Even though these facilities are not required to have the equipment or structures governed by OSHA, you can still go to these ranges and protect yourself. The important thing to

remember is the particulates are a hazard if they are ingested or inhaled. Make sure you wash your hands, forearms and face after handling ammunition or shooting. Wash your hands before eating, drinking or smoking. This prevents the ingestion of lead dust that may be on your skin. Some characteristics of this hazard allow it to be carried home to unsuspecting family members. Even in low concentrations, lead exposure is very dangerous to infants and young children. To prevent this transmission, always change your clothes upon leaving the firing range, shower as soon as you get home, and wash your contaminated clothes separately from non-contaminated clothes.

Although you cannot do much about the ventilation systems in the facility, you can take the necessary precautions to protect yourself. It is important to be on the lookout for lead sickness. Some of the signs and symptoms of lead overexposure are nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, weight loss, headaches and abdominal pain. Overexposure in adults can lead to reproductive, digestive, muscle/joint and kidney pain/problems. Overexposure in children can lead to brain/nervous system damage, vision/motor skill impairment, headaches and hearing problems. In severe cases, lead overexposure can lead to convulsions, coma and death. If you or a loved one uses the local, small indoor ranges and are experiencing some of these above symptoms, contact your assigned primary care provider to get evaluated.

You can find more information about lead overexposure at the site listed below at <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead> or by contacting Public Health at DSN 975-6942.

THE WARRIOR

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For more information, call the Warrior office at 660-687-6123, email: Whiteman.Warrior@us.af.mil, fax us: 660-687-7948, or write to us at: 509th Bomb Wing, 1081 Arnold Ave., Bldg. 59, Whiteman AFB, Mo., 65305.

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

On the cover

U.S. Air Force photo/
Staff Sgt. Brigitte N. Brantley

Members from the 509th Comptroller Squadron and wing staff agencies kick-off the 24-hour memorial run in honor of those listed as prisoners of war and missing in action, Sept. 5, 2013, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. Throughout the run, squadrons took turns carrying the lit torch and POW/MIA flag.

NEWS BRIEFS

Motorcycle fatality

We regret to inform you that Whiteman has lost one of its own to a motorcycle fatality. If anyone has any claims for or against the estate of A1C Derek Hall please contact 2nd Lt. Shane Connolly at 660-687-2479 or shane.connolly.2@us.af.mil.

Telephone news line set up for retirees

A toll-free telephone news line has been set up for retirees and surviving spouses who do not have computer access.

By calling 1-800-558-1404, retirees and spouses can stay informed using this new easy-to-use menu-driven service. Callers can select from several different topics that are compiled from various electronic news sources.

Topics include pay and annuity matters, medical and health care, and other benefits and entitlements.

CCAF GEM Program

Military members avoiding taking classes because of work shifts, deployments or other time constraints have a new program to assist them. Community College of the Air Force degree requirements can be met through distance learning using the CCAF General Education Mobile (GEM), a partnership between CCAF and other schools. For more information call (660) 687-2420.

Whiteman Warrior Story Ideas

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

AF Housing

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WEATHER

Today Sunny Hi 78 Lo 58	Saturday Sunny Hi 77 Lo 50
Sunday Chance of Storms Hi 83 Lo 59	Monday Chance of Storms Hi 78 Lo 61

B-2 undergoes comm upgrade

By Airman 1st Class Joseph Raatz
Air Force Global Strike Command
Public Affairs

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La. (AFNS) -- After a 20-year wait, the B-2 Spirit will receive a significant new communications upgrade.

The first increment of the Common Very Low Frequency Receiver, or CVR, program was designed to be a successor to the very low frequency communication system originally slated to be included with the B-2's communication package. The original system was deferred in 1992 because of budget constraints.

"CVR Increment 1 will provide the B-2 aircrew another, more reliable means to receive presidential force direction via emergency action messages," said Gary Doolittle, Air Force Global Strike Command B-2 requirements.

Currently, the B-2 uses an ultra-high frequency communications system to fill that role. However, the Military Strategic Tactical and Relay, or MILSTAR, satellites that facilitate that form of communication are approaching the end of their operational life, Doolittle said.

The upgraded communication system would allow the B-2 to receive Very Low Frequency signals bounced off of lower levels of the atmosphere, bypassing the satellite relay. This would ensure the B-2 remains a viable nuclear platform until such time as a replacement for current satellite communications can be de-



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Nick Wilson

A B-2 Spirit from the 509th Bomb Wing lifts off of the runway at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. The B-2's low-observable, or stealth, characteristics give it the unique ability to penetrate an enemy's most sophisticated defenses and threaten its most valued, and heavily defended, targets.

ployed.

The CVR Increment 1 program reached its milestone B on July 23, which authorized the program to enter the Engineering and Manufacturing Development Phase and award Engineering Manufacturing Development contracts. During this phase, the program will develop the VLF communications system, complete full system integration and test on the B-2, develop an affordable and executable manufacturing process, and ensure operational supportability, Doolittle said.

Though CVR Increment 1 is designed purely for use on the B-2 Spirit, a proposed second increment would expand

the system into other platforms such as the B-52 Stratofortress and the E-4B Advanced Airborne Command Post, Doolittle said.

"Increment 2 would provide a broader set of longer-term capability upgrades across the entire airborne nuclear command, control, and communications fleet," he said, adding that Increment 2 requirements and acquisition strategies are currently in development.

With CVR Increment 1 now reaching milestone B, the program is on-track to begin fielding in 2017. The capabilities it brings will help ensure the B-2 will continue to be a premier weapon system far into the foreseeable future.

2007-2011 Fire Facts, NFPA



Home Fires

- In 2011, U.S. fire departments responded to 370,000 home structure fires. These fires caused 13,910 civilian injuries, 2,520 civilian deaths and \$6.9 billion in direct damage.
- On average, seven people die in U.S. home fires per day.
- Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries, followed by heating equipment. Smoking is a leading cause of civilian home fire deaths.



• Most fatal fires kill one or two people. In 2011, 12 home fires killed five or more people, resulting in a total of 67 deaths.

Heating

- The leading factor contributing to heating equipment fires was failure to clean, principally creosote, from solid-fueled heating equipment, primarily chimneys.
- Portable or fixed-space heaters, including wood stoves, were involved in one-third (32 percent) of home heating fires and four out of five (80 percent) home heating deaths.
- Half of home heating fire deaths resulted from fires caused by heating equipment placed too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattresses or bedding.
- Most years, heating is the second leading cause of home fires, fire deaths and fire injuries. Fixed or portable space heaters are involved in about four out of five heating fire deaths.

Team Whiteman remembers the fallen at 9/11 Memorial



Civilians and Service members from the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army gather around the flagpole as the American flag is lowered to half-staff at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, Mo., Sept. 11, 2013. It is customary for the American flag to be lowered to half-staff on Sept. 11 to pay tribute to those who died during the World Trade Center and Pentagon terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.



U.S. Army Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets present arms while the American flag is lowered to half-staff during a 9/11 memorial ceremony at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, Mo., Sept. 11, 2013. Nearly 3,000 people from more than 90 countries around the world perished during the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Nia Newton, 509th Force Support Squadron, Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., sings the "Star Spangled Banner" during a 9/11 memorial ceremony at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, Mo., Sept. 11, 2013. Both civilian and military members took time for a moment of silence and a prayer on the 12th anniversary of the attack on America.



U.S. Air Force photos/
Staff Sgt. Nick Wilson

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Find your real-life Cinderella story

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

In Disney's "Cinderella," the main character struggles with finding a dress to wear to the Prince's ball, ultimately relying on the help of a fairy godmother to outfit her with a magical gown and glass slippers.

Cinderella gets her happy ending, but what about the women in real-life who do not have a fairy godmother?

To answer that question, look no further than Whiteman's own 'fairy godmothers,' also known as the volunteers running the Cinderella's Closet, located in the Airman's Attic.

"Cinderella's Closet is a program within the Airman's Attic that allows Airmen of all ranks and their spouses to find beautiful dresses and borrow them absolutely free of charge," said Tiffany Kalin, the Airman's Attic coordinator. "It's a simple checkout process completed here at the Airman's Attic and all we ask is that the dress is dry-cleaned before being returned to us."

This fairytale started back in 2006 in Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., when Lori Hornback, wife of Air Force Global

Strike Command Chief Chief Master Sgt. Brian Hornback, started asking women why they were not going to events such as the Air Force Ball.

"She found that many women weren't going simply because they couldn't afford to go out and buy a dress nice enough for the events," said Kalin. "So with a simple ad on Craigslist and just a handful of dresses, Cinderella's Closet was born. Now we have between 250-300 dresses in all colors and styles, and thanks to a donation by a store going out of business, many still have their original price tags on them."

While the program allows women to check out the dresses for any event, be it a wedding or military ball, and even offers a selection of shoes and jewelry to match, Kalin and other Airman's Attic volunteers noticed the Cinderella's Closet was widely unknown to most people on base.

After some brainstorming, the volunteers decided there was no better way to showcase and raise awareness of the Closet than holding a fashion show.

So on the night of Sept. 6, 2013, the first B-2 Fabulous Fashion Show was held at the

Mission's End.

"The show was run by a crew of entirely volunteers," said Mary-Beth Goodman, fashion show committee member. "The volunteers were key to putting the event together."

"All of our models were volunteers, both active duty women and spouses of active duty Service members," said Dara Webb, Airman's Attic volunteer. "Our ushers, makeup and hair stylists and DJ were all volunteers, as well. We were really blessed with amazing volunteers who were willing to put in the long hours for things such as practices and committee meetings."

The event was a huge success, said Kalin. "We had a silent auction, raffle prizes and prizes for answering trivia questions correctly," said Kalin. "We also gave out swag bags to our first 30 people through the doors. We made the decision to choose all prizes from spouses who run home businesses; it was very important to us to keep the revenue inside Whiteman."

The models, many of who had never walked a runway or modeled professionally before, also had a great time.

"My favorite part of the night was getting

to be with all of the other models," said Charly Swiger-Peterson, fashion show model. "We put a lot of effort into this event and being able to celebrate it at the end of the night was very rewarding for all of us."

Kalin is happy to say they are already working on a second show scheduled for some time next year.

"We are definitely planning on making this an annual thing," said Kalin. "So I can say for sure there will be another fashion show."

Anyone wishing to donate a dress, shoes or jewelry to Cinderella's Closet can drop the items off in the Airman's Attic donation shed which is open 24/7, but due to the delicacy of the dresses Kalin prefers dresses be dropped off in person at the Airman's Attic, open Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"We're always looking for more dresses and accessories," said Kalin. "We want to have dresses available for every woman, no matter her shape or size."

Thanks to the volunteers at the Airman's Attic, every woman gets to feel like Cinderella and be the star of their very own fairytale...but it might be better to skip the glass slippers and go for a more practical pair of heels instead.



Nia Newton, 509th Force Support Squadron and fashion show model, twirls in a Cinderella's Closet dress during the B-2 Fabulous Fashion Show at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. Sept. 6, 2013. The Cinderella's Closet has dresses available for any event, be it a wedding or a military ball.



Models and volunteers of the B-2 Fabulous Fashion Show pose for a group photo at the end of the night at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Sept. 6, 2013. The show was put on entirely by volunteers who put in long hours in practices and committee meetings.

Ashlie Schlingen, fashion show model, has her eyelashes touched up before the B-2 Fabulous Fashion Show at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. Sept. 6, 2013. While some models did their own hair and makeup, there were volunteers ready with curling irons and makeup kits to help the women feel like real-life princesses.



A glass slipper is presented to Lori Hornback, wife of Air Force Global Strike Command Chief Chief Master Sgt. Brian Hornback, at the B-2 Fabulous Fashion Show at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Sept. 6, 2013. She created the Cinderella's Closet program in 2006 when she realized many women were not going to events such as Air Force balls because they could not afford gowns and accessories to wear to the events.

U.S. Air Force photos / Airman 1st Class Shelby R. Orozco

Families show support for their Guardsmen at 157th's annual picnic

Story and photos by Airman 1st Class Nathan Dampf
131st Bomb Wing Public Affairs

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — More than 460 Missouri Air National Guardsmen and family members gathered at Jefferson Barracks for the annual 157th Air Operations Group Family picnic Sept. 7.

The event included a kids' zone, volleyball, a washers tournament and other activities, said Capt. Stephanie Saltmachia, who was the primary event organizer.

"It's a great opportunity for everyone to get out and build camaraderie," said Saltmachia, chief of combat assessment for the 157th. "The fact that we have so many people who showed up



Members of the 157th Air Operations Group, Missouri Air National Guard, socialize on the lawn at Jefferson Barracks during the annual picnic Sept. 7, 2013. More than 460 Airmen and families attended the event that also included a kids' zone with a bounce house and beanbag toss, volleyball, washers, and more.

and so many different units represented here gives everyone a chance to meet the rest of the team they work with."

Saltmachia and other event organizers coordinated food, exhibits and activities for everyone to feel comfortable and have fun. Participants enjoyed barbecue, bounce houses, decorated cookies and a canine exercise put on by the St. Louis County Police Department.

One of the newer activities for picnic-goers was a static display of the F-4 Phantom cockpit. This year was the first time the unit acquired such a display, which allowed children to sit in the pilot's seat and find out what it really feels like in the aircraft.

Children had several opportunities to get involved throughout the day. From cookie decorating to a miniature obstacle course, children's smiles lit up the event as much as the hot sun.

One of the younger picnickers had the chance to loft her best shots at the beanbag toss in the kids' zone. Five-year-old Stella Ortwerth attended the event with her father, Maj. Daniel Ortwerth. This was the family's first time attending the annual picnic, as Ortwerth has either been away on training or deployments.

"I'm very grateful to the unit for giving me the opportunity to show my family where I contribute to the mission," said Ortwerth, 157th interface control officer. "It's great giving my two families the chance to meet and co-mingle."

The event brought together both veteran and new Guard families. David Euer joined his son, Parker, at the event. Airman Euer is in the 157th's student flight, and is awaiting training at Lackland Air Force Base. Once he completes basic and technical training, he will join the Guard unit at Jefferson Barracks.

A retired Sailor who served from 1990 to 1994 on the United States Navy frigate USS Wadsworth (FFG-9), David Euer understands the significance of supporting the military.



Lt. Col. John Hicks, 157th Air Operations Group, Missouri Air National Guard, turns bratwursts at the grill during the 157th Air Operations Group annual picnic Sept. 7, 2013 at Jefferson Barracks. Hicks and other senior officers and senior enlisted personnel organized and cooked the food for the day's festivities.

"I want to show my support for my son, his commander and fellow Airmen," said Euer. "Every job in the military is an integral part that is so important to the defense of this nation. And, families of each enlistee or officer need to show support for their country and each individual who is here."

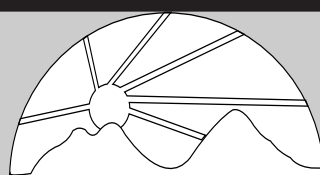
While every event has its hurdles, the support of family members, help from unit members, perseverance of event planners and smiles on family members' faces made for a successful day.

"I had a lot of people who offered to step up and help," said Saltmachia. "So many people filtered through. I'm very proud of how everything went."

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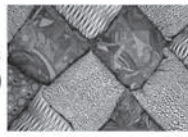
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Retired U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Charles Seibert, center, walks next to U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Thomas A. Bussiere, left, 509th Bomb Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Lee Barr, 509th BW command chief, during a prisoner of war and missing in action remembrance ceremony Sept. 5, 2013, at Whiteman Air Force Base. Seibert served as a B-17 Flying Fortress tail gunner during World War II before spending 548 days as a POW.

Whiteman Warriors honor POW/MIA



Members from the 509th Comptroller Squadron and Wing Staff Agencies kickoff the 24-hour memorial run in honor of those listed as prisoners of war and missing in action remembrance ceremony, Sept. 5, 2013, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. Throughout the run, squadrons took turns carrying the lit torch and POW/MIA flag.

Staff Sgt. Brigitte N. Brantley
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Team Whiteman held a POW/MIA remembrance ceremony Sept. 5, 2013, in honor of the men and women listed as prisoners of war or missing in action.

In attendance was retired Chief Master Sgt. Charles Seibert, who spent 548 days as POW in Germany during World War II before being liberated by American forces.

"We are in the presence of a great American hero," said Brig. Gen. Thomas A. Bussiere, 509th Bomb Wing commander. "For more than 200 years, our nation's Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Coastguardsmen and Airmen have been fighting on the behalf of the principles that make this country great. The majority of these Service members have returned home to family and friends when their service was complete. Others, however, were not so fortunate."

Seibert was just 19 years old during his second mission as a tail gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress when the plane experienced technical difficulties and was forced to the ground. He and his fellow crew members were captured right away.

"It's such an honor to be in the presence of a real POW," said Staff Sgt. Lindsey Reichling, the assistant NCO in charge of knowledge operations at the 509th Communications Squadron. "When I was stationed in Arizona, I had a coworker from my squadron killed in action in Afghanistan, so ceremonies like this are very meaningful to me."

At the end of the ceremony, Bussiere lit a torch in remembrance of all those POW/MIA. The torch was carried for the next 24 hours by Whiteman Warriors as they ran around the lake at Ike Skelton Park on base.

"Our nation has known the heartbreak and loss that comes with hundreds of thousands of Service members who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation," said Bussiere. "For the next 24 hours, the men and women of Team Whiteman will honor those POW/MIAs from all of America's conflicts. By taking time out of our day, we honor and remember our brothers and sisters in arms, whether they served 10, 50 or 200 years ago."

"By choosing to be out here, you have chosen to help us recognize their service and their sacrifice. You are helping keep faith with the compact our nation makes with all its Service members -- that 'You Are Not Forgotten.'"



U.S. Air Force Maj. William Gibson, left, 509th Comptroller Squadron commander, grabs a lit torch from Tech. Sgt. Christopher Kitts, 509th Operations Support Squadron, during a prisoner of war and missing in action remembrance ceremony Sept. 5, 2013, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. There are a total of 83,345 POW/MIA unaccounted for from past conflicts.



The Whiteman Honor Guard presents the colors during a POW/MIA remembrance ceremony Sept. 5, 2013, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. According to the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office, more than 83,000 Americans are still missing from World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War, the Vietnam War and the 1991 Gulf War.

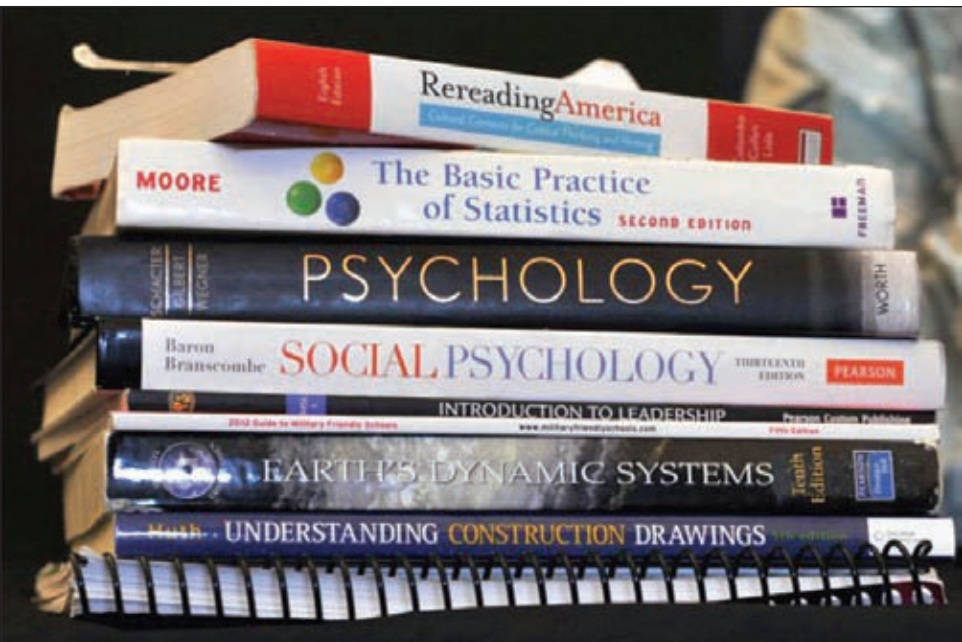


Retired U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Charles Seibert, left, talks to U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Thomas A. Bussiere, 509th Bomb Wing commander, about his experiences as a prisoner of war during World War II, Sept. 5, 2013, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. Seibert served as a B-17 Flying Fortress tail gunner during World War II before spending 548 days as a POW.



U.S. Air Force photos/
Staff Sgt. Brigitte N. Brantley

New changes to TA qualifications



U.S. Army photo/David Vergan

The Air Force has modified the Military Tuition Assistance (TA) program for fiscal year 2014 (FY14) to ensure its continuation despite the constraints of anticipated smaller budgets. Tuition Assistance helps provide thousands of dollars to Airmen in pursuit of undergraduate and graduate degrees.

Airman 1st Class Keenan Berry

509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

The Air Force has modified the Military Tuition Assistance (TA) program for fiscal year (FY) 2014 to ensure its continuation despite the constraints of anticipated smaller budgets.

While the military TA rates for FY14 remain unchanged and eligible Airmen will be able to receive \$4,500 total this fiscal year at the rate of \$250 per semester hour, new eligibility requirements were implemented for TA approval, said Darla Rush, 509th Force Support Squadron Force Development flight chief.

"The military TA program actualized four main changes for eligibility purposes," she said. "Supervisors will be required to approve all military TA requests, which will keep them informed of any educational endeavors their troops wish to pursue. Military TA will be automatically denied for Airmen with UIFs, failed PT tests, referral EPR/OPRs, or on a control roster, which only applies to recent discrepancies. Foreign language courses will only be approved if part of a degree or if on the approved shortage list."

Additionally, TA cannot be used for multiple degrees at the same level.

These changes may serve as motivation for Airmen to perform well and exceed Air Force standards.

In addition to the four eligibility changes, there have been multiple administrative changes made concerning how Airmen will apply for the program and manage their academic goals. Most notably, both Airmen and their supervi-

sors will be required to take a more proactive approach to the TA process.

"Specifically, Airman will be held accountable for ensuring the Air Force Virtual Education Center (AFVEC) has current and accurate contact information for them and their supervisors," said Rush. "Airman students will be required to populate a dynamic e-Degree plan in the AFVEC. Once the education center has approved the plan and the Airman's supervisor has approved the request, Airmen won't have to wait for the education office to give final approval. They will be able to select courses from their plan which will automatically be approved upon their supervisor's signature."

The AFVEC will undergo significant modifications to accommodate these changes. During the testing phase, select Airmen will be asked to participate to ensure the changes go smoothly and are user-friendly. Participating Airmen will also be asked to complete a questionnaire on the usability of the system.

Their answers will help determine changes to the system prior to launch, said Luther Carter, 509th FSS chief of education and training.

"The base education office staff is standing ready to assist Airmen," said Carter. "They have the latest information on a myriad of financial aid options, including tuition assistance, and are well-equipped to assist Airmen with goal-setting, testing and other aspects of the voluntary education program. I encourage all Airmen to first consult the education office for the most up-to-date information and professional advice."

Around the Air Force



U.S. Air Force photo/Mike Kaplan

Junior running back Jon Lee leaps into the end zone for a touchdown during the U.S. Air Force Academy contest versus the Colgate Raiders Aug. 31, 2013, at Falcon Stadium in Colorado Springs, Colo. The Falcons defeated the Raiders in their home opener, 38-13. Lee, from Bethlehem, Ga., rushed for 130 yards and two touchdowns on 11 carries.

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AFGSC command chief visits Team Whiteman



U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Brian Hornback, Air Force Global Strike Command command chief, listens to 509th Security Forces Squadron Airmen recite their post briefings during a visit with flightline Airmen at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Sept. 6, 2013. Hornback visited the bomb wing staff agencies, security forces squadron and flightline units.



U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Brian Hornback, Air Force Global Strike Command command chief, sits down with 509th Bomb Wing staff agency Airmen during a visit, Sept. 6, 2013. Hornback spoke with Airmen around the wing about the Air Force careers and concerns.



U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Brian Hornback, Air Force Global Strike Command command chief, speaks with 509th Bomb Wing Legal Office Airmen during his visit to Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Sept. 6, 2013. Hornback interacted with Airmen from the bomb wing staff agencies, security forces squadron and flightline units.

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

NFL Week 2 – Join the Conversation

By 1st Lt. John Cooper
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Well, that was an eventful Week 1 in the NFL. We saw Peyton Manning run up a mile-high passing record in Denver, the re-emergence of dynamic tight ends and Reggie Bush prove he's worth remembering for more than dating a Kardashians. Week 2 promises several intriguing match-ups, as well as some that may not be on your radar right now.

Denver Broncos at New York Giants

This game promises to be a battle of powerful offenses. Peyton Manning will be looking to follow up his amazing performance in Week 1, and once again he'll be looking to wide receivers Eric Decker, Demaryius Thomas and Wes Welker, as well as rookie standout tight end Julius Thomas, who caught two touchdown passes against Baltimore. The running trio of Montee Ball, Ronnie Hillman and Knowshon Moreno offers Denver a broad range of options at running back, whether they're looking to run the ball or go for the play-action or short pass. The defensive side is still a little weak, with Elvis Dumervil lost to free agency and Von Miller suspended for the first few games of the season, but it's still a solid defense overall.

The Giants, on the other hand, will be looking to bounce back from a blowout-turned-comeback loss to the Cowboys, despite the three-TD performance by WR Victor Cruz. Running back David Wilson was benched after two fumbles and an ineffective rushing performance, but with limited options at the position, look for Tom Coughlin to put him back in the lineup this week. Hakeem Nicks and Rueben Randle remain threats in the passing game, and newly acquired TE Brandon Myers has already made an impact, as well. The key for New York will be their secondary; can they stop, or at least slow down, Manning's passing game? I don't think so, and I predict the Broncos win again, by a score of 38-24.

Dallas Cowboys at Kansas City Chiefs

Not many people would pick this as a potential game of the week, but I think it could be one of the most exciting on Sunday, and I'm glad it will be on TV in this area. Dallas is coming off a close win over the rival Giants, in which they nearly blew a substantial lead, and may be looking for a more solid defensive performance. Tony Romo looked good in his season debut, tossing a pair of TDs and completing 73 percent of his passes. Star receiver Dez Bryant was a little banged up, but the frequent double-coverage on him allowed WR Miles Austin and TE Jason Witten to get open, with Witten catching two TDs. DeMarco Murray wasn't outstanding, but provided a decent boost on the ground with 80+ yards. Yes, it's the Cowboys, and no one should read Super Bowl implications into this game, especially against a weaker-than-average Giants defense, but let's face it – the Cowboys played with a little more fire than we've seen lately. They could legitimately challenge for the NFC East crown this year.

Kansas City, meanwhile, started off the



Courtesy photo

Andy Reid era by hammering Jacksonville on the road 28-2. Granted, it's Jacksonville, but considering this was the Chiefs' largest margin of victory in an opener since 1963, any such win is an encouraging sign. Alex Smith looks to be comfortable in Andy Reid's West Coast system, and with a healthy Jamaal Charles and Dwayne Bowe, in addition to some other rising skill position players, this offense could easily be the second-best team in the AFC West. The defense was even more impressive, sacking scarecrow-pretending-to-play-quarterback Blaine Gabbert six times and picking him off twice, once for a TD, and allowing a mere 71 rushing yards to Maurice Jones-Drew and Justin Forsett. This team looks much improved from last year's 2-14 effort, and could challenge for a wild card spot this year. Ultimately, this game at Arrowhead will be determined by KC's ability to stop the Cowboys' aerial attack; either way, it should be a great game. I've got the Chiefs winning a close one, 24-21.

Pittsburgh Steelers at Cincinnati Bengals

This should be a fun Monday night match-up. Despite coming off a miserable performance in Week 1, in which the offense didn't score until the final 90 seconds of the game, the Steelers warrant attention because they almost always find a way to bounce back, especially against AFC North rivals. The greatest concerns for Pittsburgh are the depleted offensive line, with Maurkice Pouncey out for the year with a torn ACL and MCL, and the lack of production at running back. Rookie Le'Veon Bell should be ready to take the rock in the coming weeks, but will not be ready for Monday's game. Until then, Jonathan Dwyer (reacquired this week), Isaac Redman and Felix Jones will try to prove they deserve the starting role in his absence. Antonio Brown and Emmanuel Sanders provide solid options at WR, and the defense, as usual, looks strong.

The Bengals are one of this year's most exciting teams. Andy Dalton now has many more weapons on offense besides WR A.J. Green, including rookies Giovanni Bernard at RB and TE Tyler Eifert. The defense also looks revamped and ready to take on all challengers. They are not quite at the level

of elite contender, and will have to prove they can win the big games on a consistent basis, however; they basically gave away last week's game at Chicago after costly turnovers and less-than-stellar defensive play. This team looks good, though. Add to that the divisional implications of this match-up, and you have the setting for a solid Monday Night Football contest. I'm picking the Steelers 27-24.

Fantasy Watch

This week's Fantasy Watch spotlight shines on another tight end – Cleveland's

Jordan Cameron. Even with unproven and turnover-prone Brandon Weeden throwing to him, Cameron is a physically imposing tight end in the mold of Jimmy Graham on an offense with few receiving targets. He's not a proven commodity yet, but he turned in a solid performance Sunday against the Dolphins, with 108 yards and a touchdown. He's a good choice in your TE slot, or as a flex play in deeper leagues if you don't have a stronger option at RB or WR.

My Playoff Predictions

Alright, so mine are a bit different from AIC Crane's. We want to hear yours, as well. Leave us a comment on our Warrior post Friday with your thoughts!

AFC East - New England Patriots 12-4

NFC East - Dallas Cowboys 11-5

AFC North - Cincinnati Bengals 11-5

NFC North - Green Bay Packers 12-4

AFC South - Indianapolis Colts 11-5

NFC South - New Orleans Saints 12-4

AFC West - Denver Broncos 12-4

NFC West - San Francisco 49ers 14-2

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Airman helps deliver daughter, deploys same day



Courtesy photo

Airman 1st Class Timothy Pledger holds his daughter, Zoey, hours after delivering her himself, Aug. 30, 2013. Pledger's flight to deploy to Guam had been delayed so he went home to be with his pregnant wife. Not long after he came home, she went into labor. In less than an hour, Pledger and his wife welcomed their new baby girl into the family. Pledger is an electronic warfare journeyman with the 20th Aircraft Maintenance Unit.

By Senior Airman Benjamin Gonsier
2nd Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Airman 1st Class Timothy Pledger was scheduled to depart for his six-month deployment in the early hours of the morning Aug. 30, but an aircraft malfunction pushed back his departure.

Pledger returned home until the new departure time to be with his pregnant wife, who was expecting any day. Around 9 a.m., his wife's water broke. With no time to spare, Pledger took action.

"I called emergency services when her water broke," he said. "However, the baby was already coming out. I called them back so they could give me step-by-step instructions on how to deliver the baby."

The emergency personnel told Pledger to ensure his wife was fine and to tell her to continue to push while also checking on the baby's condition. When the baby got stuck, Pledger said he had no idea what to do, but kept his composure and listened to the emergency personnel's directions. After applying what the emergency personnel told him, a few minutes later his daughter was completely out and breathing normally.

"The moment was magical," Pledger said. "I was all choked up and could barely talk."

After the fire department and ambulance arrived, his wife and daughter were taken to a local hospital where they were stabilized and in good condition. His daughter, Zoey, weighed in at 6 pounds, 9 ounces, and measured 19 inches.

"This is definitely a once in a lifetime situation," he added. "With the delayed jet in the beginning, it seems like this was meant to happen."

Later that day, the electronic warfare journeyman was on the plane to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, to support the continuous bomber presence mission.

"This is a testament to Airmen we have at Barksdale (AFB) and the Air Force in general," said Master Sgt. Anthony Grubb, 2nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron first sergeant. "To deliver his own daughter early in the morning, when he was supposed to deploy, and not even 12 hours later, go through the processing line and get on a jet to support the mission says a lot about the great Airmen we have here. Family is important and so is the mission, and Pledger was able to successfully support both."

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