

2 The Warrior Commentary

## **CSAF** to Airmen: focus on dignity, respect

**WASHINGTON (AFNS)** -- To the Airmen of the United States Air Force:

Last month, we launched the Airman to Airman video series as a way for me to communicate directly with you on the important issues I think you need to know about. Recently, I met with your wing commanders here in DC and talked to them about a number of issues affecting our Air Force. Most importantly, I spoke to them about my feelings on dignity and respect.

Treating EVERY Airman with dignity and respect must be at the heart of who we are and how we operate. It isn't a "tag" line; it's the core of everything we stand for as a service. Everyone in our Air Force should feel respected. Everyone should feel valued. Every single person around you brings something to the fight that you don't. Each of them is critically important to mission success, and they deserve to be treated that way.

The great majority of you already embrace this idea, but there are a few around you who don't. We need to ensure they understand that this is where our Air Force is heading. I want dignity and respect to become part of an ongoing conversation, which is why this month's Airman to Airman video focuses on it. The link is below; please take two minutes to watch it.

Thanks for who you are and what you do. You continue to make me unbelievably proud to be an Airman. Betty and I wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season. We'll keep a special place in our hearts for those of you who are deployed and the remarkable families who wait for your return.



MARK A. WELSH III General, USAF Chief of Staff

## Our Enlisted Force—The Best The World Has Ever Seen

Soon after raising my right hand and taking the oath of office at the Military Entry Processing Station, I boarded a bus headed to the Baltimore/Washington airport. Having been raised in southeast Washington, D.C., with little experience outside that environment, reality set in as I suddenly realized I had never flown on an airplane before. Most of that flight is a blur now but I do remember how awesome it was to fly across the country in a commercial airliner. When we landed at the airport in San Antonio Texas, I could never have predicted what would happen next.

I arrived at Lackland AFB in the middle of the night with hundreds of other men and women from across the nation with varying backgrounds and experiences. We were greeted by a very sharp looking Non-Commissioned Officer who had a very loud voice. My initial impression was this NCO was likely in a foul mood because someone woke him up to escort us to the chow hall. As I later discovered, having one NCO or another pressed in my face was not an aberration; but rather the norm. As I progressed through Basic Military Training, we learned new terms like, "smoke'em if you got'em," which was strange to me since I didn't smoke, and "hospital corners," which to this day doesn't make sense to me. I also developed new habits that were all very new to me--like folding, arranging and perfectly aligning my socks and undergarments (my wife will tell you I abandoned this practice long ago). Alas my very large, perfectly manicured "afro" hairstyle was done away with in a matter of sec-

onds.

Looking back on it, the first few weeks



Gen. Larry O. Spencer Vice Chief of Staff

of BMT were a bit intense; however, somewhere around the third week, the "method to the madness" started to become clear. Those sharp NCOs, with the very loud voices, were slowly but surely molding us into something that was bigger than ourselves. They took young 18-year-olds like me, who were from every walk of life you can imagine, and transformed us into a cohesive unit with a common purpose. Whether it was marching in unison on the drill pad, firing an M-16 rifle or running the obstacle course, by the time I

reached BMT graduation I realized that I really liked the Air Force and, more importantly, I was honored and proud to be a member of the enlisted force.

From Corporal Edward Ward, who was the first enlisted Airman, to our current Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Chief James Cody, today's enlisted corps is the finest the world has ever seen. From launching, maintaining or recovering satellites to protecting computer networks to maintaining high performance aircraft to providing security at deployed locations around the world, our Air Force is the most feared in the world because of all of our people, active duty and reserve/ guard, uniformed and civilians. However, as my father, a career enlisted soldier used to say, "The enlisted force is the backbone of the military," and I believe that to be the case today more than ever before.

From a former enlisted member who has walked in your shoes, I want to thank you for all you do. You and your families are the reason I come to work each day to fight for the training and equipment you need to do your job. We understand that the Air Force cannot fly, fight and win without you and we appreciate your service. As we enter a New Year, we do so with the assurance that our great Airmen are on the job, around the world, protecting the freedoms that we enjoy. We believe deeply in you and as our Chief of Staff, General Mark Welsh often says, "You Rock!"

Larry O. Spencer General, USAF Vice Chief of Staff

#### THE WARRIOR

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The Sedalia Democrat

Layout and Design

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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. Nick Wilson Airman 1st Class Adam Rhine, 509th Operations Support Squadron airfield management apprentice, and Senior Airman Alisha Thiher, 509th Operations Support Squadron airfield management journeyman, shoot pyrotechnic as part of a routine safety checklist June 29. Airmen working in the airfield management flight ensure the safety of all aircraft operations on the flightline day and night.

The Warrior News Jan. 10, 2014

### **NEWS BRIEFS**

#### 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

#### **New location for Retiree Activities Office**

The Retiree Activities Office has officially moved to its new location. Their new address is:

#### 750 Arnold Ave., Ste. 114 Whiteman AFB, MO 65305

They can still be reached at 660-687-6457 or toll-free at 1-800-303-5608. Office hours are still Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.. For updated information, visit http://www.whiteman.af.mil/ units/509thbombwing/whitemanretireeactivitiesoffice/index.asp.

#### **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.

#### Air Force Housing Web Site

Visit www.Housing.af.mil to find your new home with the Air Force. This web site serves as a one-stop shop for Airmen and their families to obtain information about the housing options and support services available to them at Air Force bases

#### **Found Property**

Keys, wallets, bicycles, jewelry and other items have been turned in as found property to Security Forces Investigation Section. To inquire about lost property, go to building 711, room 305, or call Detective Steven Scott at 660-687-5342.



#### **WEATHER**

Saturday
Mostly Sunr
Hi 43
Lo 29

#### Sunday Monday Mostly Sunny Mostly Sunny Hi 43 Lo 30 Lo 31

## **Policy Regarding Foreign National Access to Whiteman Air Force Base**

Whiteman AFB is home to numerous missions which are extremely important to the United States' defense capabilities--we each have a special trust, role, and responsibility to ensure the safety and security of our missions and our Airmen and their families.

For purposes of this policy, the term "foreign national" refers to any person who is not a U.S. citizen, other than a member of the U.S. Armed Forces (including military retirees and reserve component personnel), a U.S. military dependent registered in DEERS, or a U.S. government employee.

All foreign nationals desiring base access must have a sponsor. A sponsor must be a member of the U.S. Armed Forces (including military retirees and reserve component personnel), a U.S. military dependent, or a U.S. government employee, and otherwise eligible to sponsor personnel onto Whiteman Air Force Base.

In addition to foreign nationals, hosting any guest on Whiteman AFB is a privilege that must be taken seriously--commanders must ensure all personnel understand their responsibilities when sponsoring any visitor onto this installation.

At least fourteen days in advance of the desired date of admission onto base, a foreign national's sponsor must complete the Request for Foreign National Access to Whiteman Air Force Base application. Along with the application they must provide photocopies of at least two of the foreign national's original government identification (e.g., visa, passport, driver's license, etc.) to Security Forces (SF) personnel at the Visitor's Center. SF personnel shall first inspect the forms of identification to ensure they are valid and not expired. SF personnel will then digitally scan the photocopies of the government identification and provide the scanned identifications with the signed application to the Office of Special Investigations (OSI) for processing and review. OSI review will be governed by applicable OSI guidance.

All adult visitors will undergo criminal background screening and issued a pass for specific times and areas to be visited, and must be under the sponsorship of an authorized DoD-affiliated individual. Permission for a foreign national to enter the base should never be granted on the basis of convenience, regardless of the foreign national's rank,

All activities and actions of sponsored guests are the direct responsibility of their sponsor, to include where they travel. It is crucial that sponsors are providing direct guidance and supervision over their guests and understand they will be held accountable for the actions of any visitor they sponsor onto Whiteman.

Ensuring our guests are adequately guided and supervised throughout their visit is for their safety and ours, and vital to our successful mission accomplishment.

For more information please reference: Air Force Instruction 31-101, Security Integrated Defense.

## AF to convene enhanced selective early retirement board in June

By Debbie Gildea

Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RAN-DOLPH, Texas (AFNS) -- The Air Force will convene an enhanced selective early retirement board here June 16 to consider eligible officers for early retirement, Air Force Personnel Center officials said today.

ESERB, a new authority granted in the fiscal 2013 National Defense Authorization Act, applies to regular, active-duty majors through

The board is one of several fiscal 2014 force management programs that have been or will be implemented during fiscal 2014 to help achieve manpower and force structure goals as the service focuses on 2015 and beyond, said Lt. Col. Rick Garcia, the AFPC retirements and separations branch chief.

Officers eligible for this board include active-duty biomedical sciences corps and medical services corps lieutenant colonels who have been once non-selected for promotion to the next higher grade, and active-duty, retirementeligible line of the Air Force, LAF-judge advocate, chaplain, nurse corps, BSC and MSC

Senior raters as of the Jan. 17, 2014 accountability date will prepare a retention recommendation form for each of their eligible officers, and will provide those officers with completed copies of their RRFs by May 16, 2014.

Eligible officers who do not want to meet the retention board can apply Jan. 14-May 16 for voluntary retirement, and can use other FM programs, such as the limited active duty service commitment waiver, to enable them to retire with a Jan. 1, 2015 effective date. Officers may continue to apply for voluntary retirement after May 16, but they will remain ESERB eligible and will meet the board. Officers with a retirement approval date on or before June 13, 2014 will not meet the board.

Eligible officers who use other FM programs to enable them to retire voluntarily may be required to repay funds, Garcia said. For example, officers who do not complete the activeduty service commitment incurred for transferring their Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits to a family member may have to pay back the monetary value of any transferred benefits used by a familv member. Officers selected for retirement by the board, however, will not have to repay those

"The board will be conducted using the Electronic Board Operations Support System, so we recommend that you review your records for accuracy and update information well before the board convenes," Garcia said.

To review your records, go through the Portal or myPers to the Personnel Records Display Application on the secure applications site.

All separating and retiring Airmen must attend a transition assistance program offered at their local Airman and Family Readiness Center. TAP includes congressionally mandated pre-separation counseling, a required five-day TAP workshop, veterans benefit briefings which include details on disability, one-on-one assistance to develop an individual transition plan, and a capstone which requires commander concurrence that the member has met all career readiness standards

Other related services include employment resources, financial planning/management, spouse employment assistance, relocation assistance and general information and referral.

We highly encourage all Airmen affected by force management programs to sign up early for a TAP class," Garcia said. "Force management coupled with routine separations and retirements activity will have a significant impact on availability. So waiting until you learn the results of the board may prevent you from getting into a conveniently-scheduled class."

For more information about ESERB, including full eligibility and preparation requirements, go to myPers at https://mypers.af.mil. Enter PSDM 13-126 in the search window.



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SUNDAY, JAN. 12

3 p.m.

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13) Adults - \$5.50, children - \$3.50

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News

## NCO receives Chiefs' Choice Award



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

Tech. Sgt. Christina Hollis, 509th Munitions Squadron commander's support staff NCO in charge, receives the Chief's Choice Award Dec. 20, 2013. Hollis is being recognized for the impact she has made within her squadron, group, and wing within the short timeframe of her arrival to Whiteman. Her accomplishments include running three major squadron programs, revamping the unit fitness program monitor process and single-handedly ensuring the wing's demand reduction mission was uninterrupted.

## Stay toasty safely

509th Civil Engineer Squadron

With the winter months here, you can expect it to get much colder. With that, more heating equipment will be used to stay warm during this winter season. According to the National Fire Protection Association, heating equipment is a leading cause of home fire deaths. Almost half of home heating equipment fires are reported during the months of December, January and February. The following are some helpful tips that can prevent heating-related fires from happening.

- Make sure your smoke alarms are working. est monthly.
- Always read and follow manufacturer's instructions on heating equipment.
- Only use heating equipment that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, such as the furnace, fireplace, wood stove or portable heater.
- Make sure your portable heaters have "tip switches." These "tip switches" are designed to automatically turn off the heater in the event they tip over
- Don't use heating equipment to dry wet clothing.
- Plug portable heaters directly into outlets and never into an extension cord or power strip.
- Turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Make sure the fireplaces have a sturdy screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room, and burn only dry, seasoned wood. Allow ashes to cool before disposing in a metal container, which should be kept a safe distance from the home.
- For wood-burning stoves, follow manufacturer's instructions when installing chimney connectors and chimneys, or have a professional do the installation.
- Make sure all fuel-burning equipment is vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide

poisoning

• Never use ovens or propane grills to heat the home.

#### Other winter fire safety tips

Now that you're safe and warm when using your heating equipment, there are other winter fire safety tips that you need to be aware of this season. Did you know that heating equipment being used creates a risk of carbon monoxide gas? It's an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil and methane) burn incompletely. Don't worry though; here are some safety tips from NFPA to help prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

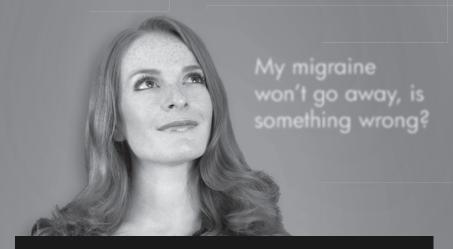
- Test carbon monoxide alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer's instruction.
- If the alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call for help (911) from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel arrive.
- If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motors indoors, even if garage doors are open.
- Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- Propane and charcoal grills can produce carbon monoxide only use outside and 15 feet away from your home.

The Whiteman AFB Fire Department would like you and your family to be safe and stay warm this winter season. If you have any question about fire prevention or fire safety, please contact our Fire Prevention Office for information at 687-6080/6083/6374.

My child's fever won't break, who can help at this hour?

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News The Warrior Jan. 10, 2014

## Heupel leads total force team to top inspection marks

By Airman 1st Class Nathan Dampf

131st Bomb Wing Public Affairs

The Missouri Air National Guard's 131st Operations Group announced its selection for noncommissioned officer of the year, Whiteman Air Force Base, December, 2013.

Tech. Sgt. Melissa Heupel, the NCO in charge of the Combat Crew Communications section of the 131st Operations Support Flight, was selected for this award because of her outstanding devotion to duty and ability to lead.

She engaged with a combined team of 131st Citizen-Airmen and 509th Bomb Wing Airmen to breathe life and fulfillment into everyone she supervised, said Lt. Col. Ryan Bailey, 131st OSF commander.

"Tech. Sgt. Heupel is known for being an expert in her career field and has mentored active duty and Guardsmen while serving in a total force integrated shop," said Bailey. "A great team has players who make others around them better. That's the goal of Tech. Sgt. Heupel and everyone on the total force team at Whiteman."

That leadership style is something Heupel acquired from her active-duty career, which started more than 12 years ago.

"I love to learn, but I also love to teach," said Heupel. "That's why I am in the position I am. It allows me to work as a teacher with pilots, but also my Airmen. I want that excitement and passion for them, too."

Heupel trains 131st and 509th Bomb Wing pilots on all things communication-related, including safe passage and the rules within the Air Force Instructions, which she says are constantly changing.

Due to her extensive knowledge and expertise, Heupel was asked by the Air Force to participate as an inspector in the combined unit inspection at Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota last year. That experience gave her the chance to learn more about the process and the opportunity to dive into the inspection's instructions. Using that knowledge, she was more prepared for her own unit's inspections just a few months later.

In the summer of 2013, the 131st Bomb Wing participated in the combined unit and initial nuclear surety inspections. During those two inspections, Heupel's functional area was noted as the best combat crew communications. Heupel also



U.S. Air National Guard photo/Airman 1st Class Nathan Dampf

Tech. Sgt. Melissa Heupel, NCO in charge of the 131st Operations Support Flight Combat Crew Communications section, and Lt. Col. David Thompson, a pilot for the 110th Bomb Squadron, discuss communications equipment and training publications issued for a training mission. Heupel said she finds teaching the officers and Airmen in her shop as the most rewarding part of her job.

received superior performer awards, both individually and as part of her team on both inspections.

"When our team was recognized, I took great pride in that," said Heupel. "I'm not one for recognition, but I wanted it for the Airmen. It was exciting."

Following the inspections, Heupel competed in the Gen. John P. Jumper Awards for Excellence in Warfighting Integration and Information Dominance and won at the Air National Guard level for outstanding achievement in the civilian employee category. She is now competing at the Air Force level,

waiting on results to be announced.

Heupel's passion is contagious. The excitement she shares for her job has carried over to the shop and resonates with the Airmen on the team, said Bailey.

"Tech. Sgt. Heupel has provided superb technical credibility with an approachable leadership style to the Airmen she works with," Bailey said. "Her shop is highly skilled and highly disciplined. That only happens from great NCO mentoring and leadership. We are grateful to have her serving with us."

## Former Joint Chiefs Chairman General (Ret.) Richard Myers Kicks Off UCM, WAFB Joint Servant Leadership Lecture Series

Courtesy of UCM's University Relations

WARRENSBURG, MO – The University of Central Missouri and Whiteman Air Force Base jointly announce a new lecture series reflecting on both organizations' shared values of service and leadership, with the first presentation featuring General (Ret.) Richard B. Myers, 15th chairman of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff,

Myers will present the first Ike Skelton Lecture at 10 a.m., Jan. 22 in Hendricks Hall, the premier event in the newly established Servant Leadership Lecture Series.

Limited free tickets will be available noon to 3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, Jan. 13, 15, and 17; noon to 3 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 20 to 21; and 8 to 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22 at the UCM ticket office, Administration Building, Room 100

"The Servant Leadership Lecture Series is symbolic of the strong relationship between UCM and Whiteman Air Force Base that has continued to grow under the leadership of base commander, Brig. Gen. Thomas Bussiere," said UCM President Charles Ambrose. "With a change in command planned in the near future at the 509th Bomb Wing, this initiative is a

tremendous opportunity to honor General Bussiere's legacy while also paying tribute to a great Missourian, Congressman Ike Skelton, whose works exemplified the meaning of servant leadership."

Skelton, a Democrat from Lexington, passed away in 2013, having served as Missouri's 4th District Congressman from 1977 to 2011, including leadership as the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

Ambrose said although a number of different speakers may be invited to UCM annually under the Servant Leadership Lecture Series, the Skelton Lecture is a special opportunity within the series to bring noteworthy guests to campus. UCM and WAFB will cooperate at least once a year to invite outstanding politicians, military figures, educators, business leaders, and journalists to present the Skelton Lecture. These speakers will focus on the servant leadership spirit displayed by Congressman Skelton during his life and the shared leadership and service missions of WAFB and UCM.

"I am thrilled to welcome General Myers as the inaugural speaker for the Skelton Lecture," said Brig. Gen. Thomas Bussiere, 509th Bomb Wing commander. "Ike Skelton was a distinguished patriot whose

innumerable contributions to our nation's security are showcased every day at Whiteman Air Force Base, and I can think of no better way to honor his legacy than to continue his example of servant leadership, of which this lecture is just the beginning."

Ambrose noted that the Servant Leadership Series initiative is part of the growing Whiteman Advantage program. This is a joint effort between UCM and WAFB that has led to new education opportunities, including UCM aviation courses being taught on base; collaborative measures to help reduce high-risk drinking among airmen and college students; a military tuition package, which reduces the cost of an education for military personnel and their families; a new Command Pass for athletic events that benefits active duty military members; and the establishment of the Military and Veterans Success Center at UCM.

Bussiere, who has been instrumental in helping to maintain and build upon these initiatives, will soon become deputy director of command, control and nuclear operations, J3 on the Joint Staff at the Pentagon. His relationship with national military leaders has contributed to General Myers's visit to campus.

A Kansas City native, Myers served as

chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from Oct. 1, 2001 to Sept. 30, 2005. As chairman, he was the highest ranking military officer in the nation, serving as the principal military adviser to the U.S. President, the Secretary of Defense and the National Security Council. He oversaw the U.S. strategy on the war on terrorism, including U.S. efforts in the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the military relief efforts following the Pacific tsunami in 2004 and Hurricanes Rita and Katrina in 2005.

A highly decorated military officer and a seasoned fighter pilot who logged more than 600 combat hours during the Vietnam Conflict, Myers spent 40 years in the U.S. Air Force. His career includes numerous operational command and leadership positions including Commander of the U.S. Space Command, North American Aerospace Defense Command, Pacific Air Forces; U.S. Forces Japan, and two fighter wings.

Members of Team Whiteman interested in attending can contact their First Sergeants for ticket information.

For information about the Servant Leadership Lecture Series or Skelton Lecture, call UCM's University Relations at 660-543-4640.

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## News

## Missouri National Guard names Outstanding Airmen of the Year

By Capt. John Quin
Missouri Air National Guard Public Affairs
mo.ngpao@mail.mil

**JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.** – The Missouri Air National Guard named Citizen-Airmen of the 131st Bomb Wing as their Outstanding Airmen of the Year awardees this month at the Missouri National Guard's headquarters at Ike Skelton Training Site in Jefferson City.

The awardees were decided by a panel of chief master sergeants hand-picked from around the state, said Missouri State Command Chief Master Sergeant Laura Clark.

"Our leadership takes this recognition program very seriously, and because of the caliber of our Airmen from around the state it's always a very difficult decision to make," Clark said. "Our Airmen accomplished great things in 2013 – the 139th Airlift Wing continued its role as a leader in the airlift community and supported numerous overseas deployments; the 157th Air Operations Group supported overseas exercises and provided command and control during spring flooding; and the 131st Bomb Wing passed its Initial Nuclear Surety Inspection earlier this year and achieved full operational capability in the nuclear B-2 mission."

The awardees are Senior Airman Ashlea Garrison, of the 131st Comptroller Flight, who was named Airman of the Year; Staff Sgt. Tyler Owenby, of the 131st Security Forces Squadron, who was named Noncommissioned Officer of the Year; Senior Master Sgt. Nicholas A. Eyman, of the 131st Operations Support Flight, who was named Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year; and Master Sgt. Frank Pliemling, of the 131st Mission Support Group, who was named First Sergeant of the Year. All are based at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo.

Garrison, a financial manager, enlisted in the Missouri National Guard in 2010. She earned Distinguished

Honor Graduate and the Academic Excellence award while at technical training, and was awarded the Commandant's Award while at Airman Leadership School.

Garrison's commander, Capt. Gary Leadstrom, said she is an outstanding Airman who deftly works financial issues, is a good steward of taxpayer money and is cool under pressure. During the government shutdown, she ensured technicians continued to be paid on time.

Garrison's success stems from her willingness to help others. Leadstrom said.

"Senior Airman Garrison is a team player," Leadstrom said. "She is committed to others. She was appointed academic monitor for Airman Leadership School students, where she lead group study and created test study guides. One hundred percent of the students passed."

Fellow 131st member Owenby also distinguished himself both individually and as a team player, said his commander, Maj. Catherine Germain.

As the administrator of the headquarters' drug testing program, Owenby plays a pivotal role in ensuring Airmen are living up to Air Force values.

"Staff Sgt. Owenby has developed a tracking system that was key in reducing the number of overdue drugpositive packets to zero," Germain said. "He has also coordinated with Air and Army National Guard leadership to ensure personnel obtain proper treatment for drug and alcohol abuse."

As a member of the 131st Security Forces Squadron, Owenby participated in the Red Flag Exercise alongside members of the 509th Bomb Wing, Germain said. He also participated in the 157th Air Operations Group's Terminal Fury Exercise and provided security for Jefferson Barracks.

In the senior noncommissioned officer category, Eyman, an aircrew flight equipment craftsman with the 131st Operations Support Squadron, earned top honors. A teacher in civilian life, Eyman uses those same skills to

educate the 131st's Airmen. He has played a key role in breathing new life into the wing's Student Flight, which is responsible for preparing young Airmen for training, said Lt. Col. Ryan Bailey.

"Senior Master Sgt. Eyman is a benchmark educator," Bailey said. "He mentored and educated more than 45 new recruits for basic military training and technical school, easing their transition to military life. It has been an unqualified success, with more than 60 percent of his student flight members earning accolades at training."

In the final category, First Sergeant of the Year, Pliemling took home the top honor. Pliemling, the first sergeant of the 131st Mission Support Group, has served in the Missouri Air National Guard since 2004. After working on F-15s as an active-duty Airman and a Missouri Guardsman, Pliemling cross-trained into flightline avionics on the B-2 when the 131st moved from St. Louis to Whiteman Air Force Base.

As first shirt, Pliemling is responsible for overseeing and developing policies and programs for hundreds of Airmen spread over a 213-mile radius, said Col. Mark Beck.

"Master Sgt. Pliemling is a trusted mentor and senior enlisted adviser who is concerned with the morale, welfare and conduct of his Airmen," Beck said. "He inspires confidence and respect, and was selected by his peers to serve as vice president of the wing's first sergeant council."

All four Airmen's packages will go on to represent the Missouri Air National Guard at the national competition in early 2014, Clark said.

"All the Airmen who were recognized by their squadrons, groups and wings represent the professionalism of our force," Clark said. "They are a reminder of the hard work and dedication of Missouri's 2,500 Citizen-Airmen. We are very proud of all of their accomplishments, and look forward to their continued success."

## How do I meet my Urgent Healthcare needs?

The 509 MDG offers same day appointments to meet the demand for urgent medical care. However, there are times when this demand outweighs our supply of appointments and we may need to refer you to a local facility. Community Health Partners or CHP is the only Urgent Care center in our local area. In addition, there are three other local TRICARE network doctor's offices (family practice or pediatrics) that we may refer you to on a space available basis.

What is considered urgent care: Care for a medical condition that, while not life or limb threatening, is serious enough that you cannot delay treatment -- for example, eye or ear infections and suspected bladder infections. For urgent care, you must first obtain authorization and have a referral from the 509th Medical Group.

#### **Urgent Care procedures and options:**

Requirement to be seen for Urgent needs:

- 1. During duty hours, call 660-687-2188, option 1, 1 and follow prompts to schedule an appointment with your healthcare provider.
- 2. After duty hours, contact the on-call provider at 660-687-2188, use option 1. The on-call provider will assist you, and, if needed will place a referral for you to be seen at one of the network facilities.

The following options are available. Only contact these facilities after you have obtained a referral, to find out hours of operation, appointment availability or other general information about the facility:

Community Health Partners, Warrensburg (660) 747-1111

Whistle Stop Pediatrics, Warrensburg (660) 747-3141

TLC, Sedalia (660) 829-5852

Express Care, Knob Noster (660) 563-5555

\*\*\*\*Remember use of any of these facilities will require you to obtain authorization and a referral from a Primary Care Manager (PCM) prior to being seen. This will prevent Point of Service claims (POS). POS charges apply when you do not obtain a referral first. In a POS claim, you pay the first \$300.00 and 50% of the allowable charges.

Emergency care does not require a pre-authorization, although you must call your PCM within 24 hours of receiving care @ (660) 687-2188 or as soon as your medical condition permits. For a true emergency, a threat to life, limb and eyesight or threatening condition requiring immediate medical treatment, go to the nearest facility equipped to handle your situation, such as a hospital emergency room, or call 911.









Integrity

## Air Force Marathon breaks registration record Jan. 1

**WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFNS)** -- The Air Force Marathon broke another record for the fourth year in a row. Nearly 6,000 runners registered Jan. 1-1,000 more than the previous year.

"I was optimistic about registration numbers on opening day," said Rob Aguiar, the race director. "But I certainly never expected so many to register on Jan. 1."

The 10K is already more than 50 percent full and Aguiar said it's always the first race to sell out. The next price increase is set for April 2, but he warns participants that there may not be spots left by that time

"We encourage all participants to register as early as possible," he said. "Not only are the prices lower the earlier you register, but we sell out very quickly."

The Air Force Marathon sold out in record time in 2013 and organizers anticipate selling out even faster this year. Officials will not be increasing the number of runners this year, capping the participants at 15,000.

The Air Force Marathon will also feature Boston Marathon Director Dave McGillivray as a special guest. McGillivray will speak at the Sports & Fitness Expo, the Breakfast of Champions and Gourmet Pasta Dinner. Tickets for the breakfast or dinner can be purchased at www.usafmarathon.com.

The featured aircraft for 2014 has not been determined yet, but will be announced once it has been exided.

Look for more information about the prices and registration at www.usafmarathon.com.

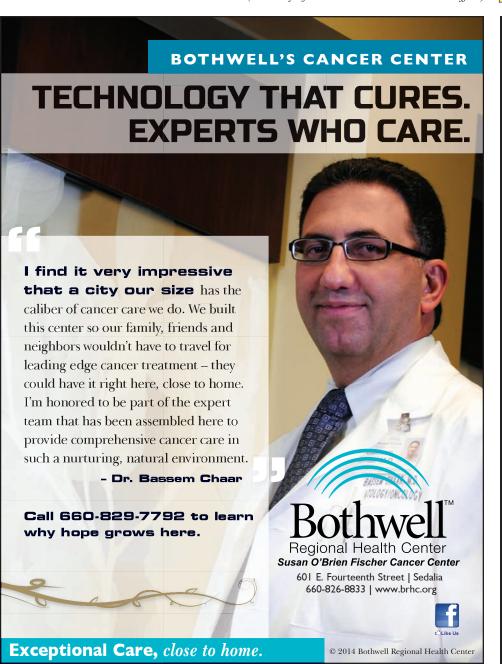
Distance	JAN 1 ONLY	JAN 2 - APR 1	APR 2 - JUN 1	JUN 2 - SELLOUT
Marathon	\$80	\$90	\$95	\$105
Half Marathon	\$65	\$75	\$80	\$90
10K	\$35	\$40	\$45	\$50
5K	\$25	\$30	\$35	\$35 until Aug. 2*

\*If there are any 5K slots left after August 2, the price will increase to \$40.

The 2014 Air Force Marathon is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 20, 2014. The Sports & Fitness expo is Thursday, Sept. 18, and Friday, Sept. 19. The Breakfast of Champions is Friday, Sept. 19, from 8 to 10 a.m. The Gourmet Pasta Dinner is Friday evening, starting at 5:30 p.m.

More information about the Air Force Marathon and registration prices can be found at www.usafmarathon.com.

(Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force Marathon Office)



## **Christmas dinner is served!**



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

Col. Kristin Goodwin, 509th Bomb Wing vice commander, hands Airman 1st Class Thomas Lukes, 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, a plate of food during the Christmas Day lunch at the Ozark Inn on Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Dec. 25, 2013. Dining facility personnel prepared the luncheon for the Airmen and base leadership served the Airmen.





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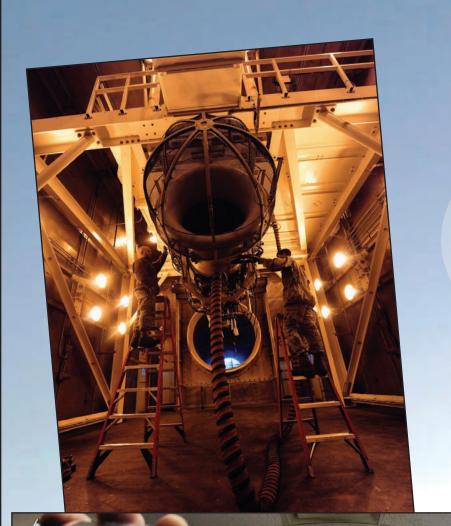
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## Welcoming 2014

The year 2013 saw the men and women of the 509th and resulted in unparalleled success during inspections and ex-131st Bomb Wings accomplish some outstanding things on ercises throughout the year. the national and international stages. We got off to an early start in March, when we flew around the world to participate cuts, furloughs and a government shutdown. Despite those in Exercise FOAL EAGLE in South Korea. This long-duration B-2 sortie came at a crucial time in international poli- and triumphant in every mission they set out to accomplish. tics, and it firmly demonstrated to our allies in the region that the United States has unmatched military capabilities is uncertainty in Washington and around the nation about

of these two units set the standard for the Air Force, and capability.

Last year also saw its share of challenges, with budget headwinds, the total force team at Whiteman was undeterred

Many of those challenges remain in the year 2014. There that we are willing to use those capabilities in their defense. what shape the Air Force and the US military will take in 2013 was also the year the 131st Bomb Wing became the coming years. What is clear, though, is that the men fully certified for the full range of nuclear operations, and and women of the 509th and 131st Bomb Wings will rise with that milestone they became a full partner with the to meet every challenge they face, and continue to provide 509th Bomb Wing. The unparalleled Total Force Integration our nation's leaders with an unmatched level of military





U.S. Air Force photos/509th BW Public Affairs

**10** The Warrior Jan. 10, 2014

### News

## Pentagon Announces Upcoming Changes to Imminent Danger Pay

By Army Sgt. 1st Class
Tyrone C. Marshall Jr.
American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON** – The Defense Department announced today changes in imminent danger pay that will go into effect June 1, DOD spokesman Army Col. Steven Warren told reporters here.

"This is a process that began [in 2011]," he said, and "included in-depth threat assessment from the combatant commands. It was made in coordination with the Joint Staff, combatant commands and military services."

Warren noted this policy change was not a budget-driven decision, but part of a routine recertification that "happens every couple of years -- it's an ongoing process."

According to a DOD news release announcing the recertification, the combatant commands conducted in-depth threat assessments for countries within their areas of responsibility.

Following the review, the release stated, it was determined that the imminent threat of physical harm to U.S. military personnel due to civil insurrection, civil war, terrorism or wartime conditions is significantly reduced in many countries, resulting in the discontinuation of imminent danger pay in those

Periodic recertification of IDP, according to the news release, ensures that imminent danger designations match the actual conditions of designated countries so that the department can provide fair entitlements and benefits. The last recertification was completed in 2007.

The DOD news release noted the following areas would no longer be designated as imminent danger areas for IDP purposes:

- The nine land areas of East Timor, Haiti, Liberia, Oman, Rwanda, Tajikistan, United Arab Emirates, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.
- The six land areas and airspace above Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Serbia and Montenegro.
- The four water areas of the Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman, and the Red Sea.
- The water area and air space above the Persian Gulf.

"Of specific note," Warren said, "imminent danger pay will remain in effect for the following: Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Jordan, Pakistan, Syria, Yemen and Egypt."

Although 2013 statistics are not currently available, Warren noted the year prior, 194,189 personnel received imminent danger pay.

"Approximately 50,000 less will be receiving imminent danger pay," he said. "In [2012], we spent approximately \$500 million on imminent danger pay. This will result in a reduction of approximately \$100 million."

The benefit provides troops in imminent danger areas about \$7.50 per day up to the maximum monthly rate of \$225, Warren said.



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**Sports** Jan. 10, 2014

## This Week in Sports – NFL Playoffs, BCS Wrap-up, Fantasy Analysis

By 1st Lt. John Cooper

509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

It's a new year, but thankfully that doesn't mean the football season is over. This weekend, the Saints head to Seattle, the Niners jet to Charlotte to face Cam Newton and the Panthers, San Diego visits Mile High to take on Peyton, and the Broncos and newcomer Andrew Luck's Colts take on veteran Tom Brady's Patriots. Expect an exciting weekend of football!

So who comes out on top and heads to their conference championship game? Last week my unofficial picks were Indianapolis, San Diego, Philly and Green Bay, so I nailed the AFC and flunked the NFC; hopefully I can reverse that this week. Starting in the NFC, I love Drew Brees and Co., with Brees coming off a big win on the road and off one of his best years statistically. In my mind, he's the second-best quarterback in the league, and he has a ton of weapons to throw to. However, all those things were true when the Saints played at Seattle during the regular season, and the Seahawks gave them their worst loss of the year, 34-7. I expect the Saints to make a lot of adjustments, and this game will be close, but I think Russell Wilson continues his efficient quarterback play, the defense brings pressure all day, and we get another "Beast Quake" moment from Marshawn Lynch. Seahawks win, 30-27.

The Panthers-49ers game will essentially be two teams with similar gameplans slugging it out. Carolina has the league's second-ranked defense, the 49ers the fifth-ranked; both offenses rank in the mid-20s. Cam Newton and Colin Kaepernick are both highly-mobile QBs who can change a game in one play. In this one, I like the Panthers, for several reasons. First, they're playing at home and coming off a bye. while the Niners have to travel across the country and could be a bit beat up after the slugfest in Green Bay. Second, I like the Panthers D to hold up against the 49ers ground-and-pound running attack; San Francisco is best when they establish a solid running game, and the Panthers have a great front seven, led by Greg Hardy and Charles Johnson. Finally, I like Cam over Colin in this matchup – just call it a gut feeling. Cam's hungry for his first playoff win, and I think he gets it here in a close one, 24-21.

Turning to the AFC, we've got San Diego battling Denver for the third time this season. The Broncos' record-breaking offense this year was largely kept in check by the average San Diego defense this year, only scoring 28 points in their first matchup and 20 in the second. The key for Philip Rivers' squad is to establish a running game and keep the ball from Peyton Manning; this approach worked like a charm in Week 15, and could work again against a porous Broncos defense. San Diego's defense, meanwhile, just shut down a powerful Cincinnati offense, also. However, Peyton Manning wants another Super Bowl ring, and is probably the smartest player in the NFL. I expect a great game from him, as his receiving corps steps up and they limit San Diego's touches. The Broncos go on to the AFC Championship Game, winning 38-30.

Finally, we've got Indy at New England. Andrew Luck led an amazing comeback against the Chiefs in the Wild Card round, and I expect another good game from him here against a depleted Patriots defense that just put standout linebacker Brandon Spikes on injured reserve. However, apart from pass



Tom Brady looks to stay on the road to another Super Bowl championship/Photo by David Silverman

rusher Robert Mathis, the Colts defense has largely underperformed this year, also, a fact which I expect Tom Brady to take advantage of. Look for wide receiver Julian Edelman and RB Shane Vereen to make a big impact in the passing game. Tom Brady gets one step closer to the Super Bowl, 35-28

#### Goodbye, BCS, We Barely Knew Thee

The final BCS championship game – what a game. Florida State and Auburn played one for the ages Monday night, and as we move on to the new playoff set-up next year, I have to say I will miss the BCS system. For all of its imperfections, this game demonstrated that the BCS was largely successful at doing what it was supposed to do – putting the two most deserving teams in the national title game. Forget conference bias for a minute and think about some of these games - 2003, Ohio State vs. Miami; 2005, Texas vs. USC; 2008, Florida vs. Oklahoma. These were great games, and the winner was clearly the best team in the country. I could go on about the BCS, but suffice it to say that I wish we were sticking with the BCS system, and I will be interested to see how the new system fares.

#### Looking Ahead to the 2014 Fantasy Season

Whether you won your championship or finished last, it's always fun to look ahead to next season and discuss potential breakout players. We all expect Jamaal Charles, LeSean McCoy, Demaryius Thomas and other superstars to perform at a high level, but what about those players who flashed signs of greatness this year, but didn't get enough touches or playing time to earn a spot in your starting lineup? There's a few I would expect to have a great 2014 campaign. First is Eagles tight end Zach Ertz. As a rookie this past year, he caught 36 passes totaling 469 yards and four TDs, while playing in all 16 games. Sure, those aren't Rob Gronkowski numbers, but drafting a tight end in fantasy becomes something of a roll of the dice once the top three or so tight ends get picked, and Ertz could be a major sleeper in 2014. He is a popular target for Nick Foles, and looks like the future starting TE in a powerful

Second is Chiefs RB Knile Davis. If you believe in handcuffing your star running backs, Davis is the clear handcuff for the Jamaal Charles owner, but even if you don't own Charles, Davis is definitely worth a flier. Largely playing as the backup to Charles during his rookie year, the former Arkansas Razorback had a breakout game in Week 17 against San Diego, garnering 27 carries for 81 yards and two TDs against a team trying to make the playoffs. If he were still on the board in the 9th or 10th round, I'd consider picking him up. Another running back I like for next year - Andre

Third is Eagles QB Nick Foles. Granted, he's not much of a sleeper, given his stellar potential, and far more owners will be looking to draft him. After Week 7, Foles was the highest scoring fantasy player behind only some guy named Peyton. However, at the end of this season, he was owned in only 88 percent of ESPN leagues; Philip Rivers (96 percent) and Colin Kaepernick (98 percent) were both more popular picks, but it was Foles who helped his owners win playoff matchups. Depending on my drafting plan, I would definitely take him in the 3rd-5th rounds. Another quarterback I like for next year – Jay Cutler.

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## **Feature**

## Ultimate resilience: Journey from South Sudan to American Airman

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Antoinette Gibson

Combined Joint Task Force -- Horn of Africa Public Affairs

#### CAMP LEMONNIER, Djibouti (AFNS)

-- Two million people died, 4 million were displaced and thousands fled civil war, but by faith and perseverance, one "lost boy" who is now an American Airman returns home.

As a young boy at the age of 5, Staff Sgt. Deng Pour, a survivor of the 1983-2006 Sudanese civil war lived through many years of near starvation and genocide, but he never gave up.

His life was filled with gunfire and attacks and hiding from village to village to stay alive. But one night, Sudanese government troops ambushed his village forcing him to flee from Sudan to Ethiopia.

"The thought of leaving never really crossed our mind until that night," Pour said. "My aunt and I left everything we had and headed for Ethiopia. My aunt told me my mom had to stay behind to take care of my grandmother, but little did I know that my mom had been actually captured."

Pour said they survived by eating grass and mud. They watched many men, women and children being killed. When he got tired, his aunt would carry him on her back as they walked miles at a time, ran from troops and avoided bombs dropped from planes.

After three months of unimaginable hardship, Pour and dozens of others arrived in Ethiopia to a refugee camp where they were safe but often had little to eat. A year later, his mom joined them. They had food and really felt as if it was going to be home, he said.

"When I saw my mom, I was so happy. I just knew everything would be okay, and we would have a normal life," he said.

After three years, the Ethiopian government was overthrown. A civil war broke out causing them to flee back to war-torn Sudan.

"People kept saying, 'You have to leave, you

have to leave.' We heard the gunfire get closer, he said. "We felt like it was life or death. We knew the road ahead would be tough, but we had to go. My mom, uncle, cousins and I headed toward Sudan, and my aunt fled with others to Kenya"

About half of the young people who fled Ethiopia--more than 500--failed to complete the journey back to Sudan, Pour said. Those who survived embarked on a long, difficult walk to return to their home. Some were shot, killed by wild animals, or died of hunger, thirst, disease or utter exhaustion, while some died crossing the crocodile-infested Pibor River, he said. "But once again, I made it. I survived."

Pour said their home was not how they left it. Their village had burned down, and the livestock had been killed. They made do with hardly anything. One day a plane flew in to deliver aid to his country, and Pour and his cousin stood watching in amazement, but little did they know that it was their way "home."

Pour's uncle asked the pilot if he would take Pour and his cousin to Kakuma, a refugee camp in northern Kenya. His mom said she wanted a better life for them, so she sent them alone. It was at the refugee camp where the elders from their local village formed loose family groups and took care of them. Pour and thousands of other southern Sudanese children became known as the "lost boys of Sudan."

At the camp, they attend school and learned basic reading, writing and arithmetic. For the next five years, life got better.

"Sept. 17, 1999, is a day I will never forget. That was the day my aunt adopted me as her son and sent for me to come to the U.S," said Pour with tears in his eyes.

Against all odds, Pour was on his way to the

At the age of 16 he could barely speak English and found himself below the academic standard, but he worked day and night to continue to learn basic reading, writing and arithmetic.

Pour graduated high school and was accepted into Lindsey Wilson College in Kentucky on a



Staff Sgt. Deng Pour, non-commissioned officer in charge of religious affairs with the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, greets Airman 1st Class Pamela Thompson, 81st Expeditionary Rescue Squadron communication and navigation specialist at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Dec. 13, 2013.

soccer scholarship, but it did not take Pour long to realize he was wasting his time. Joining the Air Force was something he said he always wanted to do, but he was unable to because he did not have a green card.

"I knew as soon as I got my green card that I would join the Air Force," Pour said.

In 2006, an Air Force recruiter traveled three hours to meet Pour at his home in Fergus Falls, Minn. The recruiter assured Pour he would do whatever he could to help him enlist in the military. Pour could either wait a year for the job he wanted or go right away by leaving his specialty open. Without hesitation, Pour took the first available job to enlist in the Air Force.

"Services was my first job, but once I was able to retrain, I cross trained into the chaplain corps," Pour said. "I knew was where God called me to be"

Pour has been in the military for seven years

with assignments at Barksdale Air Force Base, La. and Offutt Air Force Base, Neb. and has deployed to Kuwait, Afghanistan, and currently to Africa. He said life has not always been easy since leaving his country, and when he was ready to give up, mentors such as Chief Master Sgt. Dayton Lowry reminded him there will always be better days.

"Chief, as well as many others, motivate me and the Air Force is a community where everyone wants to come and help," Pour said. "There is always a leader or mentor there when you are ready to give up. I have faced many road blocks in my life, but I've been reminded that if you are determined you can accomplish anything."

Pour is currently the NCO in charge of the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa Religious Affairs where he works in a variety of support roles, building morale amongst the combined forces, as well as assisting other partner nation militaries improve their military chaplaincies.

"He is a valuable member to our team. With a past that is so rich in this region, he provides us with firsthand knowledge on customs and traditions with our partnering countries," said Navy Capt. Dana Reed, director of religious affairs

"My goal in Africa is simple: to make a difference, whether it's amongst my peers or in this country," Pour said. "As I was going through my struggles, many people went out of their way to help me... The Air Force is a way for me to give back, to serve my adopted country because I know I'm representing something greater than myself. The mission here at CJTF-HOA helps people, it helps my people."

For a long time Pour said he felt he was unable to tell his story, but "now I believe I can... because it may leave someone encouraged," he said

"Pour encouraged me. He told me that his mother always use to tell him 'eyes are for looking forward,' I only hope that my children have that kind of resiliency," Reed said.

Pours said his 25-year journey since leaving Sudan made him who he is today.

"I will always remember my journey; it is because of my journey I am where I am today --just a little faith, motivation and perseverance,"

The road taken was not easy for this Airman. But this "lost boy" understands the importance of being resilient.



Staff Sgt. Deng Pour, Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, non-commissioned officer in charge of religious affairs, gives school supplies to local children in Djibouti Dec. 15, 2013. Pour's goal while in Africa is to give back to his peers and country.



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**509 FSS PAGE EDITOR: KYLE C. HAMRICK CONTACT US! 687-7929** 

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### **News**

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## **December 2013 Courts-Martial**, **Article 15s, and Discharges**



In December 2013, one member was punished under Article 15, Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). There were no courts-martial or administrative discharges closed during the month of December.

#### **Article 15s (1)**

An Airman First Class from the 509th Maintenance Squadron received an Article 15 for disrespect to an NCO, dereliction of duty, and wrongful appropriation of a motor vehicle. For these offenses, he received a reduction to grade of Airman (suspended), forfeiture of \$849 pay per month for 2 months (suspended), 30 days extra duty, and a reprimand.

#### **Comment**

For the second month in a row, the number of nonjudicial punishment actions is lower compared to previous months. With a total of one nonjudicial punishment, zero discharges, and no courts-martials, it appears that misconduct is reducing. We can only hope that this drastic reduction is the result of Airmen making better decisions and being good wingmen to our fellow Airmen. With that being said, let's continue with the positive attitudes and better decisions. Continue to monitor your fellow Airmen and be mindful of the consequences of vour behaviors.

## **Position Opening:**

The Whiteman AFB Spirit Chapel is looking to fill the Catholic Sunday Music Director/Accompanist position. Bids will be accepted through 27 Jan 2014. Opening bids will take place 28 Jan 2014 at 0900 and contract award will be based on the "best value" to the government. The Statement of Work (SOW) detailing the position and bidding process can be picked up at the Base Chapel. A Criminal Background Check will be required prior to contract award. Please contact TSgt Ruggiero at 687-3652 with any questions.



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