

WARRIOR

Air Delivery

Airmen return to Missouri after Afghanistan deployment



Taking a stand: Help win the fight against sexual assault

By Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Larry O. Spencer

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Just as Airmen broke the sound barrier and pioneered new paths to space, Airmen will pioneer new ways to prevent sexual assault in the Air Force.

Preventing this crime is not easy; if it were, you, America's Airmen, would already have eliminated it from our force. As we begin this new fiscal year, I ask for your help in pioneering new ways to prevent sexual assault in the force. To be clear, preventing sexual assault focuses on the individual that commits the crime and how to intervene before a crime takes place.

Whether the campaign is called 'Inherent Resolve,' 'Airmen Powered by Innovation,' or 'Every Airman Counts,' your ideas are at the forefront of solving every challenge the Air Force faces, and eliminating sexual assault is no different.

In the past several years, we have made great improvements in our sexual assault response programs. We added more sexual assault response coordinators and funded full-time victim advocates at each installation. We stood up a special victims' capability that is comprised of specially trained investigators, prosecutors, and legal support personnel to appropriately prosecute these sex crimes. We also significantly increased our victim advocacy capability with special victim counselors that are available to all sexual assault victims and whose sole purpose is to represent the victim in any legal proceedings or assist in any other legal and policy matters a victim may need.

We have also spent a great deal of time training and educating every Airman about sexual assault prevention and response. This education starts from the day an Airman walks into a recruiting office, and continues throughout their career.

However, our job is far from done. While we've made progress in victim advocacy and appropriately holding offenders accountable, there is still significant work to do in preventing sexual assault before it happens. Together, we all need to get better at recognizing the characteristics of the perpetrator and the subtle situations in which we can stop harassment, assault and violence before it happens.

This is where I need your help.

January 12 - 16, 2015, we are conducting a Sexual Assault Prevention Summit at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland, and will bring in Airmen from across the force to participate. While only some of you will be given the opportunity to attend in person, I want all of your ideas on how we can better prevent sexual assault. Please visit the Air Force's 'Every Airman Counts Blog' at <http://afsapr.dodlive.mil/> and submit your ideas and any other thoughts you have about creating an Air Force free from sexual assault.

It's going to take all of us working together and exploring innovative ideas to come up with a practical toolkit that we can all use to effectively prevent this horrible crime from taking place in the Air Force.

I appreciate you taking the time to make the difference and to bring us to the next level in the fight against sexual assault.



Online vigilance helps reduce risk

By Master Sgt. Sonny Cohrs
23rd Wing Public Affairs

MOODY AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AFNS) -- I received at least five emails last week warning me to secure my social media settings and be aware of what I post on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Why? Do you not like to see what I had for dinner last night? Too many #selfies? Are photos of my dog eating a Popsicle offensive? (In my defense, he's a really awesome dog.)

No. The warning is because there are potential threats against Americans, including service members and their families, in our homeland. Brutal, violent attacks on innocent civilians have happened here before, and, sadly, may happen again.

However, danger doesn't always come in the form of 140 characters on Twitter. The metadata in your smart phone often includes times, locations and even GPS coordinates -- valuable information for our adversaries.

Air Force Instruction 1-1, Air Force Standards, says we are "personally responsible" for what we post online and that "the use of social media and other forms of communication that allow you to communicate with a large number of people brings with it the increased risk of magnifying operational security lapses."

But what can you do to protect yourself from magnifying these security lapses? Remember your operational security training, always remain vigilant, and, yes, double check your social media settings and practices. It's also important to become a difficult target. Will "checking in" at your favorite restaurant make you a target for so-called "lone wolves" supporting the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant? Possibly. Will posting the dates of your weeklong family vacation make you a target for criminals to break into your house and rob you? That's more likely, so be smart about what you share online.

The Air Force reminds us not to post information about deployment departures, locations and ongoing operations. Additionally, you should always screen your followers and refrain from checking in at places or allowing your friends to tag you at locations. And although it should go without saying, never, ever post personally identifiable information online, such as your address, phone number or birthday.

As advised, I checked my personal security settings on various social media sites and found I have some housekeeping for my digital identity. Chances are, you do too. Should I delete my social media accounts? Should you? That is a personal decision everyone needs to make, but remember once you post something online there is no taking it back. It's out there for the world to

see, regardless of your intended audience.

Personally, I continue to use social media because it is the easiest way to keep up with family and friends across the globe, especially when deployed. I will, however, routinely check my security settings and remember to be smart about what I share. This year, my birthday passed with minimal well-wishes online because I removed it from my profile. That's a small price to pay.

Historically, we learned "loose lips sink ships" as a way to remind ourselves of OPSEC measures. Today, this principle is even more vital because most people have the internet in their pocket.

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower said, "Fundamentally, public opinion wins wars." In a way, the battle against ISIL takes place in the realm of public opinion. Our adversaries showed how they can effectively leverage social media to instill fear in millions of people when they beheaded Westerners and posted the videos to YouTube.

As a public affairs professional, it is my job to help tell the story of American Airmen and I will continue to do this because I am proud of the accomplishments we achieve each and every day.

It's important for the American people to see us accomplish our duties competently, effectively and proudly -- without putting the mission or our wingmen at risk.

THE WARRIOR

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Published by the **Sedalia Democrat**, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with Whiteman Air Force Base.

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The deadline for article submissions to the **Warrior** is noon Friday. If a holiday falls on Friday, the deadline then becomes 4 p.m. Thursday. Articles will be published on a space-available basis. Submissions does not guarantee publication.

For more information, call the **Warrior** office at 660-687-6126, email Whiteman.Warrior@us.af.mil, fax 660-687-7948, or write to us at Whiteman **Warrior**, 509th Bomb Wing, 509 Spirit Blvd. Suite 116, 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/
Airman 1st Class Halley Burgess

More than 300 deployed Reservists and active duty Airmen from Whiteman AFB returned to Missouri between October 26 and 27. They supported more than 400 requests for assistance from troops in combat, accumulating more than 50,000 rounds and 57,000 pounds of munitions spent.

NEWS BRIEFS

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Did you know...

What the qualifying and disqualifying factors are to apply for Palace Chase? To be eligible for this opportunity, you must: Be a U.S. citizen, complete at least two-thirds of the initial Active Duty Service Commitment for officers and 24 months of a 4-year contract or 36 months of a 6-year contract for enlisted members, be medically qualified worldwide, meet fitness standards.

If you have any questions regarding this program, you can contact your unit First Sergeant or Master Sgt. Stephen Thomas, the AFRC In-service Recruiter, at 687-1868.

Speed limit change

The 509th Civil Engineer Squadron will be installing new speed limit signs around base housing. The new signs will direct a speed limit of 20 mph unless children are present, in which case the limit will be 10 mph.

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 worldwide.

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.



WEATHER

Today	Saturday
Sunny	Morning Frost
Hi 44	Hi 46
Lo 40	Lo 26

Sunday	Monday
Partly Sunny	Showers Likely
Hi 55	Hi 63
Lo 38	Lo 45

How Whiteman works for you

By Senior Airman Lacie Carmody
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

While other bases have lost many of the services they provide for their Airmen due to fiscal restraints, Whiteman Air Force Base has remained steadfast, providing amenities to both Airmen and their families stationed here.

As fiscal year 2015 kicks off, team Whiteman will see more improvements to services across the base, including renovations to the fitness center, Mission's End and extended hours at the Base Exchange. These changes come on top of the already wide array of services that base leadership has worked to keep during the difficult financial

times of the past year.

"The 509th Bomb Wing priorities include taking care of our people and their families," said Maj. Chip Hollinger, 509th Force Support squadron commander. "Not only does the 509BW/CC make this a priority, he allocates the funding necessary to provide the combat support programs and activities critical to executing our mission."

With morale a top priority, Team Whiteman's leaders are consistently looking for ways to improve the lives of both Airmen and their families. This is achieved in part by answering questions over social media sites and town halls. The feedback from these outlets has led to increased hours at the Fitness center, along with the addition of the Fitness

annex, which is available for those who work overnight or swing shifts and are otherwise unable to get to the gym during normal hours.

"Through customer feedback, our base community voiced interest in restoring the tennis courts located near the fitness center therefore, the wing allocated funds to remove the existing courts and install new U.S. Tennis Association compliant courts," said Hollinger. "This project is on track for completion in early spring."

Whiteman's mission is always a top priority; however, without the Airmen of Whiteman being in high spirits the mission suffers. As 2015 unfolds Airmen can look forward to an increased quality of life and a variety of improvements.

AF to implement DOD TDY policy changes

Air Force Accounting and Finance Office

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- The Defense Department recently implemented two TDY policy changes impacting travel reimbursements for Airmen.

The first change took effect Oct. 1, and made changes to the Joint Travel Regulations (JTR), Reimbursable and Incidental Expense Policy. The second will be a change in long-term TDY per diem expenses and takes effect Nov. 1.

Referencing the new policy for incidental expenses, contiguous U.S. (CONUS) laundry expenses, tips to baggage handlers by uniformed members and ATM fees are among those now considered part of the incidental expense portion of per diem, thus they are no longer reimbursable as separate miscellaneous expenses. These expenses will now be added to the current list which includes such items as tips to porters, baggage carriers, bellhops, hotel maids, stewards and stewardesses.

Per the Defense Travel Management Office (DTMO), the changes will simplify the travel regulation policy to align the DOD with industry best practices and to reduce travel costs for DOD.

The rate for incidental expenses will remain at \$5 per day for CONUS locations and will vary according to outside CONUS locations.

In a review of travel vouchers, the DTMO found only 13.27 percent claimed ATM fees, 4.2 percent claimed CONUS laundry and .04 percent claimed transportation tips.

If incidental expenses go over the set amount (over the entire TDY period) and travelers can justify the expense (with receipts for all expenses), they can work with their approving officials to authorize actual expense allowance (AEA) for the meals and incidental expense (M&IE) portion of per diem.

Personnel who began travel before Oct. 1, can still be reimbursed under the old policy as long as the expense was incurred before the new date.

The flat-rate per diem policy change will encourage travelers to take advantage of cost-saving opportunities for long-term travel – spending 31 days or more in a single location.

Additionally, it will urge travelers to work with hotels that have discounted rates for extended stays, usually more than 30 days, thereby saving tax-payer dollars.

The change to the regulation will provide for a flat-rate per diem expense based upon length of stay. The flat-rate will be as follows:

- On travel day to location: 100 percent of lodging per diem at the locality rate and 75 percent of M&IE

- For TDYs that are 31 to 180 days: flat rate of 75 percent of the locality rate (lodging/M&IE) for each full day, starting day two through the end of the TDY

- For those TDYs (approved by the appropriate authority per JTR) for greater than 180 days: flat rate of 55 percent locality rate is authorized for each full day, starting day two through the last night at the TDY location, then 75 percent of M&IE on the return travel day

The DOD believes for extended TDYs there are opportunities to

obtain a better lodging rate. Also, when a traveler forecasts out and determines that after 30 days he/she is going to get 75 or 55 percent of per diem, they can find a hotel to stay in to meet that cost and capitalize on better food expenditures over the course of the long-term TDY.

However, there are exceptions to the policy.

It depends on if one is staying in government quarters or not. Also, if one is going to an area where the cost for all hotels is going to max out the lodging, and a flat rate is not available, authorizing officials can authorize AEA only after confirming there is no other lodging with the Commercial Travel Office. There are methods to paying the higher cost in situations where a traveler can't get the reduced rate. In other words, any traveler unable to find suitable commercial lodging at the flat rate should contact their CTO for assistance. If both the traveler and the CTO determine that lodging is not available at the flat rate, the authorizing official may authorize reimbursement of the actual lodging expense (not to exceed the locality per diem rate). However, the traveler will receive M&IE at the flat rate.

In all instances, the traveler should work with their local CTO to secure a hotel.

Although DTMO has stated "travelers will not be required to submit a lodging receipt," the Air Force will require a lodging receipt on all travel vouchers to support the claim. The receipt is necessary back-up on the voucher to justify the proper reimbursement of taxes, leave periods, and verification a lodging expense was incurred just to name a few instances. To simplify when a receipt should be required and reduce confusion the Air Force will require it on all travel vouchers.

To help travelers better plan for their long-term TDY cost, they should visit the DTMO website 'Per Diem Rates Query' page, available by clicking here. It includes the breakdown of per diem for the respective flat rate. Travelers can use it to project their per diem entitlement, and update DTS per diem entitlements with these amounts, if applicable.

Some other rules that will apply under this policy change are as follows:

- Flat rate lodging per diem does not apply when government or contracted government lodging is available or provided at no cost to the traveler.

- If meals are provided or government meals are available and directed, the traveler will be paid the Government Meal Rate, Proportional Meal Rate and Incidental Expense portion of per diem

- If the traveler is staying with friends/relatives at the TDY location, they will not receive the lodging portion of per diem

Until DTS can accommodate calculating the flat-rate per diem, a manual computation will be required, and the applicable lodging per diem rate will need to be edited for input into DTS.

According to DTMO, the DOD estimates they will save on both policy changes more than \$37 million annually. To access the DTMO website, click here.

Editor's note: (Staff Sgt. Amanda Dick, Headquarters Pacific Air Force Public Affairs and Master Sgt. Jeremy Lemaire, Air Force Accounting and Finance Office contributed to the article)

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Some people may not know this, but there is a veterinary clinic right here on Whiteman Air Force Base. If you can find where the helicopters land, then you can find the Veterinary Clinic. Located at 900 Perimeter Road, the Veterinary Clinic on base is here for all of your pets' routine medical needs. Although caring for the military working dogs is a large part of the veterinary clinic's mission, they also provide for privately owned pets as well. All active duty and retired personnel can utilize this service. Appointments can be made for your pet Monday, Wednesday, or Friday. Patients can be seen for a number of issues, including, vaccinations, laboratory tests, a nail trim, or a microchip. The veterinary staff is

also equipped to handle minor sick calls that can occur with problems such as allergies, ear infections, or minor gastrointestinal issues. The costs of these services remain at a reduced price when compared to other civilian veterinary hospitals in the area. It's easy to forget, but the furry members of your family need to see a doctor every year to. Cats, in particular, are very good at hiding when they are sick. Many of the vaccinations that are given to pets now can last for 3 years, but it's important to know that some vaccinations still need to be given annually. If it has been more than a year since your pet has been to a veterinarian, now is the time to call the Whiteman AFB Veterinary Clinic at (660)687-2667 to make an appointment.

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- SESSION 2 (JANUARY 5th- JANUARY 23rd) 5pm- 9:20pm
Speech M-W
Principles of Management M-W
American History T-Th
Human Resource Management T-Th
- SESSION 3A (JANUARY 26th- FEBRUARY 13th) 5pm- 9:20pm
Humanities T-Th
- SESSION 3B (JANUARY 26th- FEBRUARY 27th) 5pm- 9:20pm
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Security Forces: Whiteman's sword and shield

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

While Airmen and their families sleep soundly, patrolmen from the 509th Security Forces Squadron stand watch around the clock, making sure Whiteman's greatest assets, such as the people and the B-2 Spirit, are safe.

Armed and ready, these steadfast warriors aim to ensure every inch of the base perimeter is protected from those who might harm it. They are both Whiteman's frontline defense and well-trained offense.

Security Forces Airmen patrol the streets, control base entry points and respond to any alert situations around the base at any given time.

"I monitor all the alarms on the installation and dispatch



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Matthew Hinson, 509th Security Forces Squadron patrolman, reviews daily paperwork at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo.

patrols to any incident that requires our presence, such as medical emergencies and domestic disturbances," said Staff Sgt. Delleon West, 509th SFS desk sergeant.

Whenever an incident occurs around the base, the desk sergeant alerts patrolmen and dispatch them to the appropriate location. Then there are procedures SFS members must follow to ensure the safety of everyone involved.

For example, West relayed, "During standard alarm activation, we set up a 360-degree perimeter which allows us to get a view of all sides of the building. We then make contact with personnel inside to ascertain their status. Once that occurs, we request they make contact with the patrolman on scene so we can confirm their status and search the facility. If all is well, we then terminate the response; if not, we can adjust according to the situation."

When law enforcement patrols aren't responding to alarms, they typically implement exercises as a flight to hone their skills.

"Flight level exercises simulate activities such as weapons recovery and active shooter situations. Our training section, quality control and flight trainers form a synergistic triad that develops new and exciting scenarios in a variety of environments to ensure our tactics are the most current, most effective and most responsive," said West. "Although practice addresses a wide variety of circumstances, the 509th SFS members cannot predict what will occur while on patrol."

One of the most important aspects of the job of an entry controller is the base entry point check. Derived from the authority of the base commander, base entry points checks are not based on any probable cause that an individual is transporting contraband but is designed to protect government property and security of the installation. The entry controller randomly selects vehicles for inspection and if available, is assisted by a military working dog. Not only do these checks prevent personnel from entering the installation with contraband, it also prevents unwanted monitoring of base activities.

In addition, base entry point guards must be vigilant against unauthorized personnel attempting to access the installation.

Ensuring the base is safe from various threats, outside and

within, is not an easy task, but the 509th SFS is up to the challenge.

"This job is challenging because working 12-15 hours a day can be draining to the body so we have to be mentality tough to endure it," West said. "We must be ready around the clock, even when there's nothing occurring."

Security Forces Airmen are here to serve as a shield against mischief and crime. If they were not present, intruders could access the base any time, base residents would be unprotected and the B-2s could potentially be in harms-way. Because of these dangers, Security Forces presence is vital to the Whiteman mission.

"I feel like our job is a necessity to the mission because we must prevent destruction from occurring," West said. "Nothing big really occurs here at Whiteman, but a good day for us is when nothing occurs."



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. De Leon West, 509th Security Forces Squadron desk Sgt., plots the location of traffic control points at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Oct. 8, 2014. This procedure is done to strategically set cordons for flight-level exercise.



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Matthew Hinson, 509th Security Forces Squadron patrolman, arms up for the duty day at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Oct. 8, 2014. Whenever a situation occurs around the base, the desk sergeant will alert patrolmen and dispatch to the location where situation is occurring.

131st Bomb Wing Citizen-Airman is first responder

By Tech Sgt. Traci Payne
131st Bomb Wing Public Affairs

SAINT LOUIS, Mo. – A Missouri Air National Guardsman from the 131st Bomb Wing was the first responder on the scene of a serious car accident Oct. 11, 2014.

While traveling back to his house after a leisurely day spent with his girlfriend, Senior Master Sgt. Sheldon G. Matthews, the 131st Bomb Wing staff first sergeant, watched as a horrible accident unfolded right in front of him.

Matthews was driving down I-270 immediately east of the Illinois Route 157 exit when he noticed smoke filling the air and all of the cars in front of him pulling off to the side of the road. He said he just assumed it was the result of a disabled vehicle, but as he got closer, he saw that a small Chrysler had rear-ended a semi-truck. The airbags had deployed and the driver was still in the car.

Matthews began to react. He knew he couldn't stop in the middle of traffic and risk safety to himself and others, so he pulled his car over in front of the semi-truck and rushed back to the victim. When Matthews reached the vehicle, the driver did not appear to be conscious, but he was breathing and had a pulse.

"It was a horrible scene to walk up on, but when I realized that he was still alive, it was a huge relief," Matthews said.



U.S. Air National Guard photo/Tech. Sgt. Traci Payne

Missouri Air National Guard Senior Master Sgt. Sheldon G. Matthews serves as the 131st Bomb Wing first sergeant for wing staff at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. Matthews was recently the first responder to a serious car accident October 11, 2014. "I credit everything I did and my reaction to the things I have learned in the military through Self Aid and Buddy Care and emergency response training," Matthews said. "It's not in me to just stand around and watch; I didn't even think about it, I just went."

Two other motorists stopped to offer assistance and Matthews said they realized that there was no way to get the victim out of the vehicle. The whole front of the car was crushed underneath the semi.

One of their biggest concerns was that the car would catch fire before emergency personnel responded, so they retrieved fire extinguishers from other semi-trucks. One of the helpers, an off-duty EMT, attended to the victim while Matthews and the other took control of the traffic situation. They ensured the scene was safe and kept traffic moving.

Matthews, who has no background in medical services or emergency response said that his quick thinking and response is a direct result of the experience he has gained in the military. He was able to act calmly, work in sync with the other two on the scene and control the situation.

"It was chaotic, but it was maintained and controlled," Matthews said. "It was like organized chaos, really."

Emergency personnel responded within 20 minutes and the victim was conscious and talking when the ambulance took him away.

"I credit everything I did and my reaction to the things I have learned in the military through Self Aid and Buddy Care and emergency response training," Matthews said. "It's not in me to just stand around and watch; I didn't even think about it, I just went."

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USAF helicopter conference attendees discuss future

By 1st Lt. Christopher Mesnard

Air Force Global Strike Command Public Affairs

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La. -- Air Force Global Strike Command's Helicopter Operations Division hosted the World-Wide Helicopter Conference here Oct. 7-9 to discuss the current and future state of the Air Force's helicopter fleets.

The conference promoted cross talk among the Air Force's helicopter forces, which are principally operated by Air Combat Command, Pacific Air Forces, the Air Force District of Washington and AFGSC.

AFGSC, PACAF and AFDW operate a fleet of UH-1N helicopters whose missions include surveillance of off-base nuclear weapons convoys, support of the Nuclear Security and Continuity of Operations/Continuity of Government missions and distinguished visitor airlift.

However, the UH-1N is an aging platform, operating well past its intended life-span, said Col. Todd Worms, AFGSC Helicopter Operations Division chief. To continue safe, secure and effective operations, a more capable platform is required.

ACC currently operates the HH-60G Pave Hawk to fulfill the Air Force's requirement to provide personnel recovery capability for its own forces as well as other Department of Defense forces in hostile or isolated environments.

"We find that even though we're divided up into two operations, pretty much what affects one half affects the other; to include deployments, personnel shortfalls and maintenance issues," Worms said. "This is the one time each year we get to sit down and discuss all those issues with the commanders and the leadership from both sides to make sure we balance impacts across the force, come up with innovative ideas and exchange best practices. Budget restrictions resulted in the conference being cancelled in 2012 and 2013, making this year's information cross flow extremely beneficial."

Although the helicopter community is split across two platforms, the lessons learned from either side can greatly impact the future of the other.

"The Air Force's helicopter community is critical to a number of missions, and a common forum to address current and future issues is important to the Airmen who execute those missions," said Col. Charles Tomko, ACC Personnel Recovery Division chief. "As we move forward with the Combat Rescue Helicopter Program, we will continue to work with our other helicopter partners to ensure we are all successful as a community to execute the missions the Air Force and combatant commanders task us with."

Worms also highlighted areas that a common rotary-wing platform across the Air Force would improve, including reduced training and maintenance costs, personnel efficiencies and common logistical practices across the force.

One particular area where commonality could be felt is in the helicopter training program.



U.S. Air Force photo/Matt Bilden

The UH-1N is operated by units in Air Force Global Strike Command, Pacific Command and Air Force District of Washington. Representatives from all commands participated in the World-Wide Helicopter Conference, Oct. 7-9, 2014, at Barksdale Air Force Base, to discuss best practices across the helicopter forces in the Air Force.

The training that helicopter pilots go through currently requires aircrews to go through additional training when they transition between the UH-1 and the HH-60. A topic of discussion during the conference was how the Air Force can improve this process, avoiding the added cost of operating two separate platforms.

Currently, the goal is to have one rotary-wing platform for the Air Force.

"If we buy the right things and make the right moves, we have an opportunity to build a much more capable and flexible helicopter force at a lower cost," Worms said.



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U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Halley Burgess

More than 300 deployed Reservists and active duty Airman from Whiteman AFB returned to Missouri between October 26 and 27. They supported more than 400 requests for assistance from troops in combat, accumulating more than 50,000 rounds and 57,000 pounds of munitions spent.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Halley Burgess

Tech. Sgt. James Register proposes to his girlfriend after landing at Whiteman Air Force Base on October 26. Register was one of more than 300 Airmen to return from a seven-month deployment to Bagram, Afghanistan. His friends and family met him with signs that spelled out "Welcome Home Jimmy" for him, but then flipped to spell out "Welcome to the family" for her.



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Emily F. Alley

Members of the 442nd Fighter Wing were reunited with their friends and family at Whiteman Air Force Base on October 26 after a seven-month deployment to Bagram, Afghanistan. The Airmen were critical to the generation of 2,500 flying missions, totaling 9,600 flying hours.



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Emily F. Alley

Although they all wore earplugs, some visitors did not appreciate how noisy the flight line was at Whiteman Air Force Base the afternoon of October 26 when 10 A-10 Thunderbolts returned from Afghanistan. Here two girls wait to greet their father after he landed. Airmen spent seven months in Afghanistan.



Airmen return to Missouri after seven months in Afghanistan

By Tech. Sgt. Emily F. Alley
442nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Airmen from the 442nd Fighter Wing, from Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., returned here from a seven-month deployment to Bagram, Afghanistan, October 26 and 27. The final, largest wave of 321 personnel, comprised of 245 Reservists and 76 Active Duty Airmen, were deployed in support of a close-air support mission flying the A-10 Thunderbolt and saving lives of Americans and their allies in Afghanistan. During the deployment, the Airmen were critical to the generation of 2,500 flying missions, totaling 9,600 flying hours. They supported more than 400 requests for assistance from troops in combat, accumulating more than 50,000 rounds and 57,000 pounds of munitions spent. "These numbers are impressive," said Col. Hubie Hegtvedt, commander of the 442nd Fighter Wing, "but what's more important to me is the fact that because of our Airmen there are troops on the ground who are alive today and going home to their families." Friends and families of the returning Airmen gathered near the flight line here to welcome them, seven of whom were meeting their newborn children for the first time. Lt. Col. Bryan Stone, deployed commander of the A-10 squadron, commended the work of his Airmen and said, "They did a great job and they're the reason we flew successfully. It's been a long seven months. I'm proud to bring them home."

U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Emily F. Alley

A pilot from the 442nd Fighter Wing greets his son at Whiteman Air Force Base on October 26 after a seven-month deployment to Bagram, Afghanistan. The A-10 pilots generated 2,500 flying missions, totaling 9,600 flying hours.

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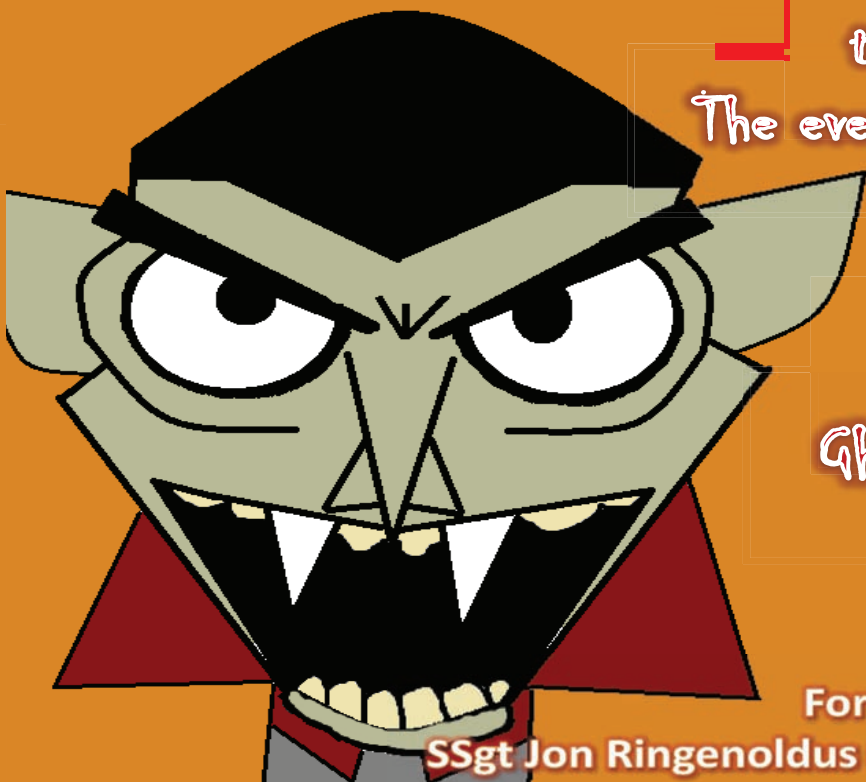
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Air Force officials announce banner year in ground safety

By Keith Wright
Air Force Safety Center Public Affairs

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. (AFNS) -- The Air Force mission is inherently risky and Airmen mitigate those risks every day, but last fiscal year their sound risk management and decision making skills contributed to a great year in ground safety.

The Air Force finished fiscal year 2014 with three on-duty and 42 off-duty ground fatalities, marking the lowest fatality rate in 10 years. That's a decline from fiscal 2013 with seven on-duty fatalities and 47 off-duty ground fatalities with the top two categories being Ground & Industrial and motor vehicle. The 10-year average is 5.9 fatalities on-duty and 50.6 for off-duty.

The leading cause of off-duty deaths among Airmen, motor vehicle accidents, declined 18 percent from 34 in fiscal 2013 to 28 in fiscal 2014. Included in those fiscal 2014 numbers were 15 four-wheeled vehicle and 13 motorcycle deaths. Over the last 10 years, the Air Force has lost an average of 39 Airmen each year to motor vehicle accidents.

"When every Airman stays focused and uses the risk management tools available, lives are saved as evidenced by the significant decrease in fatalities, the lowest in 10 years," said Bill Parsons, the Air Force chief of ground safety. "But we must redouble our efforts: one life lost is one too many."

In the on-duty arena, the past two years have been marked by extensive efforts by the Air Force Safety Center and major commands to reduce injuries due to falls and vehicle backing. To address fall protection hazards and inherent hazards in backing government and specialty

vehicles, supervisors have given more emphasis on job safety training.

The Critical Days of Summer campaign focused on risk management in all activities and concluded with a reduction in fatalities from 20 in 2013 to 17 in 2014.

"In the last few years, the Air Force has emphasized risk management principles for on- and off-duty activities," said Maj. Gen. Kurt Neubauer, the Air Force chief of safety and the AFSEC commander. "Risk management and safe operations are part of our ethos, and when our Airmen apply them to every activity, both on duty and off duty, they mitigate hazards and prevent mishaps.

"Safety is foundational for establishing an Air Force culture with a strong risk management focus," he added.

In an effort to reduce motorcycle fatalities in fiscal 2014, Air Force officials maintained a motorcycle safety training contract graduating more than 3,300 riders through 458 classes Air Force-wide, which provided Air Force riders the knowledge, skills and techniques to be safer riders.

The Air Force hosted Stay Alive From Education (S.A.F.E.) Street Smart, an audience-interactive mishap prevention program that was presented to more than 100,000 Airmen at 90 installations in the last three years.

Air Force Ground Safety attributed the reduction in on- and off-duty fatalities to commander involvement, risk management, job safety training, fall protection emphasis programs, motorcycle training, "Street Smart" and other seasonal campaigns.

For more information, visit the Air Force Safety Center at <http://www.afsec.af.mil/>



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Airman shares story of loss to raise awareness of childhood cancer

By Karen Abeyasekera

100th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

ROYAL AIR FORCE MILDENHALL, England (AFNS) -- Ty Nordstrom was just 4 years old when he caught a large catfish by himself.

"It weighed around 7 lbs.," said his dad, Master Sgt. Lyle Nordstrom, the 352nd Special Operations Group Inspector General superintendent. "He was very proud of himself -- it was a long, hard-fought battle between the two of them."

That wasn't the only battle Ty faced at such a young age. He soon had to deal with something much scarier - cancer.

At the time, in 2007, Ty and his family lived in Abilene, Texas. He hadn't yet reached his fifth birthday when he was diagnosed. Ty died Nov. 13, 2009 - a month before his seventh birthday. He'd been suffering from non-rhabdomyosarcoma.

Non-rhabdomyosarcoma is a soft-tissue sarcoma and it's a cancer of the supporting tissues of the body, such as muscle, nerve or fat tissues. Treatments include surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

"He started suffering from a stiff neck, and when he turned his head left to right, he would compensate by moving his shoulders, so originally we were being seen for that," Nordstrom said.

The family had been going to the hospital for roughly a year when things started getting worse. Ty's general doctor sent him to physical therapy for a while, but his neck wasn't getting any better. So his parents took him to a neurologist.

"They did a lot of imagery but didn't see anything of concern; that was probably about February 2007," Nordstrom said. "But he just kept getting worse and worse - the pain was becoming unbearable for him; almost paralyzing in his neck, to the point that most of his day would be spent laying down."

In October 2007, the tiny Texan had a follow-up with the neurologist for an MRI. It was then that doctors discovered Ty had a huge cancerous mass in his neck, around the C1 and C2 cervical vertebrae, the first being closest to the skull and the second next down the spine.

Wondering why it hadn't been spotted before, Nordstrom and his wife spoke with the neurologist, who then had the imagery checked by a neuro-oncologist to ensure nothing had been overlooked.

"But there were no signs of any cancer on there," Nordstrom said. "It was very aggressive and fast-growing."

The young boy then had to undergo an MRI, CT scan, X-rays and an electrocardiogram. As much as it was a struggle for Ty, seeing their son suffering caused his parents unbearable pain.

"We immediately thought he was going to die sooner or later, (and) then once they gave us the prognosis, it was even more grim," Nordstrom said. "When he was initially diagnosed, we stayed in the hospital for 30 days with him. They did a full body scan -- he had a cancerous mass above his



Ty Nordstrom giggles as a bearded dragon reptile sits on his head July 2008, at the Houston Zoo, Texas. He was diagnosed with cancer October 2007, just before his 5th birthday. Ty and his family were in Houston for eight weeks of proton radiation therapy. Ty died in November 2009, one month before his seventh birthday. His dad, Master Sgt. Lyle Nordstrom, the 352nd Special Operations Group Inspector General superintendent, said his son loved animals and always wanted to go to zoos, aquariums and safari parks.

Courtesy photo

kidney and another on his mediastinum, and it had spread throughout his abdomen. We lived in the hospital with him the whole time."

The mediastinum is the central compartment of the thoracic cavity containing the heart, great vessels of the heart, esophagus, trachea, phrenic nerve, cardiac nerve, cardiac nerve, thoracic duct, thymus and lymph nodes of the central chest.

Ty's father said the doctors put his son on medication so they were able to control his pain. The initial round of chemotherapy seemed to help, and reduced the mass in his neck by about 50 percent, getting rid of most of the secondary masses. After 30 days, Ty's parents took him home. He continued chemotherapy for another seven months, before starting proton radiation treatment.

The 6-year-old suffered nausea, vomiting and hair loss, but his dad recalled how brave his son was in the way he handled everything. Unfortunately, his struggle wasn't over.

"Toward the end of the cancer, once the tumor started growing again, it started wrapping around nerves that controlled

swallowing and other functions like that, so (Ty) was aspirating on food and liquid a lot," Nordstrom said. "We ended up having to put in a 'G-button.' That was quite a struggle for him, because he wanted that taste of food and candy."

A G-button, or gastrostomy button, is a tube which is inserted into the stomach and used to feed or give medicine until the person is able to chew or swallow.

Ty's stay in the hospital lasted about two weeks and then he was sent home, where he passed away shortly after.

For parents, the loss of a child can put a massive strain on couples.

"I think we both struggled individually," Nordstrom said. "It took a toll on our marriage for quite some time. We drifted apart and paralleled with our own grieving process; we were both going to individual therapy."

Eventually the family moved from Abilene to England.

"(The move) meant we could allow ourselves to heal better, and get away from all the emotional triggers in the area," he said.

The couple has two other children; one 7-year-old and an 18-month-old. They're

expecting another child in November. They do what they can to ensure the siblings remember their older brother.

"Ty was an energetic, playful child," his dad said. "He was always one to make a joke or pull a prank on somebody, and he very much loved the outdoors. One of his favorite activities was fishing, and anything to do with animals, whether it was feeding the ducks or seeing the animals at a local zoo."

Since the loss of his son, Nordstrom said he and his wife have become advocates of childhood cancer awareness.

"We try and spread the word about it through social media, and during Christmas we do a big toy drive in the U.S. called 'Ty's Toys,'" he said. "The toys are donated to Cook Children's Hospital at Fort Worth, Texas."

The master sergeant also offered words of encouragement to anyone else that may be going through a similar situation.

"You really have to find a good support network," he said. "My wife and I found it helpful to lean on parents who were going through the same thing. Cherish every moment with your family."

Temporary job turned into nearly six-decade career for budget analyst



U.S. Air Force photo/Justin Connaher

Ramona Moore poses at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Oct. 15, 2014, with a timeline of major news events spanning her 57-year civil service with the Defense Department. Moore began her government career as a temporary supply clerk on Elmendorf Air Force Base in 1957 before transitioning into accounting and finance. Moore is an Air Force budget analyst.

By Airman 1st Class Kyle Johnson

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson
Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska (AFNS) -- The first Super Bowl, a presidential assassination, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and a couple government shutdowns are just a few of the things Ramona Moore has passed on her path.

"The government furlough was rough," she recalled a more recent event. "I think that's happened to me twice now."

She looked up from her mechanical pencil, the eraser at the end worn from fidgeting as much as use, as she mentioned the shutdown with the kind of nonchalance only 57 years of employment could muster.

Moore, a budget analyst for the 673rd Comptroller Squadron, is retiring Oct. 31 after 57 years of civilian service to Elmendorf Air Force Base, Fort Richardson and now the joint base administration.

Moore has a soft, but clear voice with a quiet authority that comes with experience. The analyst grew up in Alaska, but her family is from the West, where they lost their Wyoming homestead in 1934, leaving them with no land, but plenty of motivation and from there they moved to Hope, Alaska.

Hope had only one school, with an equal number of rooms. There was no local secondary school but Moore took correspondence courses from the University of Nebraska and received her high school diploma. After graduating,

the independent Moore moved to Anchorage, Alaska, looking for work, and snagged a temporary job as a supply clerk at Elmendorf Air Force Base.

Moore did not expect her temporary job to turn into a career spanning nearly six decades, but said she's glad it did. She said living as a career woman in 1957 wasn't a novelty; it was a necessity.

"I wasn't looking for a higher reason," Moore said. "I just needed to survive."

She smiled as she listed off her few possessions at the time.

"When I started, I had no car; I had a just a few clothes and I was paid \$18 a month for rent. I got paid \$160 a pay period," she said with a chuckle. "I didn't know what I was going to do with all that money. I bought a used Mercury to see my family in Hope."

After working as a GS-3 in supply for four years, Moore netted a promotion to GS-4 which put her in finance, where she would eventually retire.

Moore explained that for Soldiers to get paid back then, they needed to go to the finance building and go downstairs to "the cage" to receive their checks.

"Everything was paper and ink then," Moore said as she recalled herself and co-workers being buried in paper and surrounded by boxes.

"It seems unbelievable at times," Moore said ruefully as she reflected on how much has changed since she began. "It doesn't feel like the same job."

She recalled computers that filled entire

rooms and Soldiers who used them to run reports at night, leaving the printouts at finance.

Technology isn't the only thing that changed around Moore. Her professional career would cover a timeline of global and national events that have been considered history for years.

"I was just sitting there, working, and the first sergeant popped his head in and said, 'The president's been shot.'"

"I asked him, 'The president of what?' It had never occurred to me that (our) president would be shot," Moore said as she recalled the assassination of former President John F. Kennedy in 1963.

The next year, however, Moore would live through a truly earth shattering event that would strike closer to home.

When the "Great Alaska Earthquake of 1964" struck, Moore was in downtown Anchorage, picking up her sister from her job. The destruction in downtown was so rampant and the earthquake destroyed most of downtown -- but Soldiers still needed to get paid.

"There were some of those long, hanging fluorescent lights that fell and shattered, causing some damage," she said as if still seeing the broken glass. "But we were back to work by the end of the next week."

Moore did not know if her family a little over an hour away in Hope was safe or not and an aftershock soon hit the Friday after. It would be a while before any mail could come. Until then, she only had the radio.

"I really hate earthquakes. It scared me to death," she said.

As devastating as the earthquake was, Moore said one of her biggest challenges during her career, from a professional standpoint, was the joint base merger. She explained each installation's finance office operated with completely different methods at the time.

"They talked about it for five or six years ... I thought I'd be retired before they ever did joint basing," Moore said.

However, Moore and her colleagues overcame the challenge and completed their merger into Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

The extent of Moore's career and her relationships with her co-workers is testament to the effects of her positive attitude in the workplace.

"I am really sad to see her go," said Dawn Rominske, a lead budget analyst with the 673rd Comptroller Squadron. "She's like mom to us ... She's a perfectionist. She sees things we never could and keeps us in line."

Moore's expectation of excellence isn't limited to those around her, but is part of her motivation for retiring.

"I feel like I'm at an age where I need to retire before I can't perform my job as well as it should be performed," she said, tapping her pencil. "I really hate to let go of that job. I can tell you, as you get older, what you want to do changes a lot."

For 57 years, Moore has been a rock in a world where the only constant is change. Now, with tears and laughter, the change is coming her way.

"You're going along and everything's fine," she said. "Then all of a sudden, you're done."

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Whiteman's Top III MVP!



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Keenan Berry
U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Hayley Kolb, 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron support technician, receives Whiteman Top III award at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Oct. 16, 2014. Kolb is a member of the Young Government leaders, volunteer for the Whiteman Elementary Parent/Teacher Organization and completed nine credits toward a nursing degree.

AF adjusts enlisted retention results

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Air Force officials announced an adjustment to the Junior Enlisted Retention Board which convened in June at the Air Force Personnel Center.

Fifty Airmen who were not selected for retention during the FY14 force management ERB were offered the opportunity to remain on active duty following identification of an issue in the eligibility of Airmen meeting the board.

Upon receipt of an inquiry by an Airman, a review conducted by Air Force officials resulted in identification of a coding issue used in determining the eligibility of Airmen meeting the ERB. As a result, 36 Airmen who should have met the ERB did not and were not considered for separation.

To rectify the situation, Air Force officials looked at all cases where other Airmen may have been impacted and found a total of 50 Airmen who could have been affected during the ERB.

"We contacted the 50 Airmen and their senior raters to offer them the opportunity to remain on active duty," said Brig. Gen. Brian Kelly, director of military force management policy. "In addition, the 36 Airmen who were eligible for and should have met the board will not be affected."

The Air Force examined all other

eligibility lists for the FY14 boards to ensure the coding was accurate and ensured safeguards are in place for future boards.

"We thoroughly review all instances in which Airmen report concerns regarding personnel programs and where there are issues, as an institution, we seek the most responsible and just course of action to make things right for our Airmen," said Lt. Gen. Sam Cox, deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services.

This was not the result of board processes so the Airmen selected for retention are still retained and the 36 Airmen excluded will not be subject to the FY14 Junior Enlisted Retention Board.

"Obviously anytime we are dealing with personal matters or boards that directly affect Airmen and families, we do so with extreme caution and care," General Cox said. "I can tell you that your Airmen at the Air Force Personnel Center have handled more than 170,000 Airmen's records during these programs and have operated on a very compressed timeline that allowed us to meet both our mission and budgetary requirements."

For more information about force management programs and other personnel issues, visit the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil>.

FIP provides new career path for missileers

By Airman 1st Class Joshua Smoot
341st Missile Wing Public Affairs

MALMSTROM AIR FORCE BASE, Mont. (AFNS) -- Steps to implement the "3+3" operations tour construct for the missile combat crew officers at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana have begun to meet the Nov. 1, 2014, implementation date.

The new construct will affect all officers in the nuclear and missile operations (13N) career field.

Missileers in their first three-year assignment will focus on developing their weapon system proficiency. During their second three-year assignment, which will likely be at another ICBM base, missileers will apply their expertise to serve as an instructor, evaluator and/or flight commander and provide guidance and mentoring to others when performing alert.

"The first three years put focus on the missile field," said Lt. Col. Benjamin Dahlke, the 341st Operations Support Squadron director of operations. "They will focus on being a deputy crew commander for about 18 months and after that they'll be focused on being a good crew commander for another 18 months."

Leaders will use a phased approach to implement the "3+3" tour construct. For example, most 13N officers who arrived at Malmstrom AFB in the spring of 2011 will complete a four-year crew tour. Most 13N officers who arrived in the spring of 2012 will complete somewhere between a three to four-year tour and the people who arrived in the fall of 2013 and beyond, will likely have a three-year tour.

Previously, the missile crew tour was four-years and included some instructor, evaluator and/or flight commander duties. This model allowed for inexperienced deputy commanders to instruct or evaluate more senior, experienced officers, which is contrary to the Air Force's standard operations training model.

The advantage of having them wait 36 months is to be able to have truly experienced instructors and evaluators



U.S. Air Force photo/John Turner
Steps to implement the "3+3" operations tour construct for the missile combat crew officers at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont. have begun to meet the Nov. 1, 2014, implementation date. It will affect all officers in the nuclear and missile operations (13N) career field.

for standardization and evaluations, Dahlke said.

"The experience level will go up at every stage of an intercontinental ballistic missile crew member's career," said Lt. Col. Justin Mulkey, the 341st OSS commander. "They'll be able to focus on the mission and making themselves and their peers better."

The "3+3" tour construct is part of the force improvement program (FIP) initiated by Air Force Global Strike

Command.

"The 3+3 crew tour is just a part of what we are doing," Mulkey said.

It's a part of bigger changes to improve how Malmstrom develops ICBM experts and leaders. This construct focuses on training and improving the crew force quality, the quality of the instruction and enhancing the nuclear enterprise, Mulkey added.

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