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Sidelines to Flightline Lee Corso makes a visit to Whiteman



Commentary

Sexual assault prevention: Own it!

By Chief Master Sgt. Rufino Gonzalez 509th Operations Group Chief

When we talk about preventing the crime of sexual assault, we are talking about before the crime happens. We've all participated in sexual assault education through mass auditorium inperson programs, smaller focus group discussions and one-on-one interactions with your local Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARC). Keeping that type of education in mind, we find ourselves asking the questions: What does prevention mean? What do we think can make preventing sexual assault more effective?

Personally, I believe prevention starts with effective supervisor involvement. This is my seventh base assignment and I have never been directly involved in a shop, element, branch, flight, squadron or group that was affected with a serious (conviction by court-martial, nonjudicial punishment or punitive administrative action) issue related to sexual assault/harassment. Does that mean they never happened without our knowledge? No, but I also know my supervisor at my first duty station made sure to square me away from day one, fresh out of completion of technical training.

Squared me away: "what does that mean," you may ask. Well, she got to know me from the very moment I stepped into my shop. We went to the dining facility and took an extended lunch, where she asked me about my family, where I was from, set-up an intro to meet my spouse, wanted to know when both our birthday's and anniversary were, asked me about my mom/dad, brothers/sisters, grandma/grandpa, aunts/uncles, cousins, high school teacher/ coach, etc. She also wanted to know about my childhood, my beliefs, values, religion and any activities that made me happy like sports, hobbies and school. She also introduced me to her family, all while letting me know who she was as well.

She made it personal and intrusive but always mindful of the profession we are in and the challenges we will face together as one team. This wasn't more evident to me than when she introduced herself for the very first



Chief Master Sgt. Rufino Gonzalez 509th Operations Group Chief

time, she said "Hello, welcome to Ellsworth Air Force Base. My name is Deb, but you can call me Staff Sgt. Hartsock." She also read me in on the Strategic Air Command and bomb wing mission, how I fit into that mission and ran through the chain of command.

She was ultimately my own personal equal opportunity specialist or first sergeant. She deliberately made it a point to explain what was acceptable and unacceptable as a member of not only the military but as a member of society itself. When you have an effective supervisor that sets a good example and is highly motivated, it's likely that you will want to follow in their footsteps and do everything within your power to be loyal and feel totally obligated not to let them down, ever.

While we may have our own personal feelings about the effectiveness of the sexual assault/ harassment training we've received throughout our careers, I know one thing: it starts with supervisors who get to know their Airmen. Let's also not forget our SARCs, victim advocates, medical and law enforcement personnel who, on a daily basis, provide an outstanding support system to victims in their time of need. But we, as supervisors, must also play a major role in solving this issue, "we must own it!"

We also have to succeed in maintaining work centers free of any and all behaviors that hinder our Airmens' ability to achieve their full potential and maximize their contributions. My supervisor, in particular, accepted the NCO charge to develop me and always reminded me that I shouldn't sit on the sidelines when I see a "wrong" and I never wanted to let her down, so I didn't. Specifically, throughout my career, when I heard or witnessed the beginning of a sexual (or harassment) in nature conversation or action in my shop, I professionally and tactfully confronted that individual or group of workers immediately, regardless of rank. In almost every instance, they stopped. In those rare cases where they repeated their offense, I reported it to my supervisor and I stopped it cold in its tracks. Getting to know your Airmen also means that you may very well be in a good position to identify the next predator in line waiting and you need to quickly be ready to square them away or show them the door out of our great Air Force. As you see, I have no magic master plan for combatting this problem we face today with sexual assaults and harassment. However, it's simple. Supervisors: Own it!, Get to know your Airmen, develop and set them up for success and react to our victims loud or silent calls for help. Airmen: Don't stand on the sidelines. Hold your fellow Airmen accountable when you see a wrong.



vESD 2.0 rolls out Air Force-wide

By Air Force Space Command Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- A brand new version of the Virtual Enterprise Service Desk (version 2.0) is now available on unclassified computer desktops on the Air Force network.

The vESD is an application on the desktop that empowers computer users to resolve minor information technology issues on their own, no longer requiring users to call the Enterprise Service Desk. The application also automatically generates a remedy ticket for any issues it can't resolve, providing faster service to users. vESD also allows users to check on the status of any trouble ticket and update personal information through MyGal, the Air Force's global address list.

Similar to the previous version, vESD 2.0 assists users in resolving problems with Outlook email, Blackberry smartphones and iPhones. However, version 2.0 provides further support for network, hardware and software issues with a workstation.

Additional features of vESD 2.0 include assistance with mapping network drives, troubleshooting Common Access Card and CAC reader issues, resolving website issues, and help with common peripherals (keyboard, monitor, printer, etc.). If vESD doesn't resolve the issue, users can still create a trouble ticket so an Air Force Network Support technician can provide assistance. In addition to problem-solving, vESD also allows users to check the status of existing trouble tickets.

For account management, users will still contact their local information assurance officer and work with their Information Assurance Officer for any account management issues, such as modifying security groups or access to SharePoint or share drives. Any changes to the network will still require the user to contact their local base change sponsor and submit that request for change through Remedy.

"Using automated tools to resolve common issues follows industry best practices and provides superior service to our Air Force users," said Lt. Col. Mark Reith, the 690th Network Support Squadron commander. "Our goal is to help ensure daily disruptions due to routine computing issues are limited to the max extent possible."

The days of being able to surge additional manpower to resolve an issue are long past. Through maximum usage of the automated tools the Air Force can let automation take some of that workload.

"We all know that resources are scarce, and the future doesn't look any better," said Brig. Gen. Kevin Wooton, the Air Force Space Command Integrated Operations principal deputy director. "The Air Force must provide capabilities the nation needs while becoming smaller. This means our workforce and installations of the future must operate differently and more efficiently. The ESD transformation is one step towards reducing overhead costs and increasing efficiencies, while improving service and effectiveness for all Air Force personnel."

THE WARRIOR

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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 Joel Pfiester Lee Corso, an ESPN college football analyst, shares a laugh with Brig. Gen.

Glen VanHerck, 509th Bomb Wing commander, in front of a B-2 Spirit at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Feb. 6, 2015. Corso was briefed on the B-2's mission and strategic deterrence capabilities.

NEWS BRIEFS



SPIRITUAL FIT TIP **OF THE WEEK** The only way to peace is forgiveness. - Pope John Paul II

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100 percent inventory

The 509th Munitions Squadron will be conducting a 100 percent stockpile inventory March 2-6, 2015. If you need any munitions issued or have any that need to be turned in, please do so either the week prior or after the inventory. During this week 509 MUNS will only process emergency requests, submitted in writing and approved by the group commander (or equivalent). If you have any questions or concerns please contact Master Sgt. Jason Gebbia at 687-8049 or Tech. Sgt. Young at 687-8052.

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.

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.

WEATHER		
Today	Saturday	
Mostly Sunny	Partly Sunny	
Hi 45	Hi 36	
Lo 17	Lo 27	
Sunday	Monday	
Partly Sunny	Snow Likely	
Hi 26	Hi 31	
Lo 7	Lo 18	

Commander's Presidents Day message

Brig. Gen. Glen VanHerck 509th Bomb Wing commander

At Whiteman we are, and must continue to be, committed to developing Airmen leaders across all levels. After all, the number one job of a leader is to grow more leaders!

Inspired Airmen leaders build confidence throughout our team and enable us to not only persevere through adversity, but also to tackle tough challenges.

Leaders have vision - they know what needs to be done and they do it! Leaders plan, execute and follow through to the finish line. Leaders don't do this for themselves or for accolades; the actions that true leaders take are done for others and for the greater good. This month we celebrate two leaders, great Americans who personified this type of inspired leadership: George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

February marks the birth of these two legendary leaders - one who founded this country and the other who prevented it from being torn



Brig. Gen. Glen D. VanHerck Commander, 509th Bomb Wing

apart. Presidents Washington and Lincoln embodied the American spirit. They were known for their honesty, their integrity and for their character.

In service to America, they made

countless sacrifices and they bore those burdens so future generations wouldn't have to. Their moral fiber wouldn't allow them to turn away from struggles or injustices they knew to be wrong. I hope that we all strive to conduct ourselves in the manner of these two great leaders.

As we honor these two leaders this holiday weekend, think of Monday as much more than just time off – think of it as time well spent. This should be a weekend of camaraderie and fellowship. It is an opportunity to reflect upon the passion and the determination of Washington and Lincoln -- let their contributions to history ignite inside you a renewed sense of purpose as Airmen, Americans and leaders!

Enjoy this weekend. Be safe and be responsible. Watch out for one another and remember that what you and your families do for our great nation does not go unnoticed. Thank you all for what you do, for the sacrifices you make each and every day and for your continued commitment going forward.

January 2015 Courts-Martial, **Articles 15, and Discharges**

In January 2015, two members were punished under Article 15, Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), one member had a previously suspended Article 15 punishment vacated and three members were administratively discharged from the Air Force. Additionally, there was one courts-martial that concluded during the month of January.

COURTS-MARTIAL

Formerly Tech. Sgt. Ronal R. Reed, Jr., from the 509th Security Forces Squadron was found guilty in a special courts-martial for making a false official statement in violation of Article 107 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UMCJ) and for committing fraud against the United States in violation of Article 132, UCMJ. For these offenses he received a reduction to senior airman and four months confinement.

NON-JUDICIAL PUNISHMENT

An airman first class from the 509th SFS received an Article 15 for possessing





a cellular phone in a secure area, making a false official statement, and impeding an investigation in violation of Article 92, Article 107 and Article 134, UCMJ, respectively. For these offenses, the member received a reduction to airman basic, forfeiture of \$250 pay per month for two months, suspended restriction to Whiteman Air Force Base for 30 days, suspended 30 days extra duty and a reprimand.

An airman first class from the 509th SFS received a vacation of suspended nonjudicial punishment for making a false official statement with intent to deceive, a violation of Article 107, UCMJ. As a result of this subsequent offense, the member's previously suspended reduction to airman was vacated.

An airman from the 509th Operations Support Squadron received an Article 15 for failing to go to his appointed place of duty at the Fitness Center and for submitting a false official fitness improvement activity log in violation of Article 86 and Article 107, UCMJ. For these offenses the member received a reduction to airman basic, suspended forfeiture of \$250 pay per month for two months and a reprimand.

DISCHARGES

A senior airman from the 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron received an involuntary administrative discharge with a general service characterization for the commission of a serious offense.

An airman first class from the 509th SFS received an involuntary administrative discharge with an honorable service characterization for fitness failure.

An airman first class from the 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron received an involuntary administrative discharge with an honorable service characterization for conditions that interfere with military service.



News

Reel Time Theaters

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SUNDAY, FEB. 15 • 3 p.m. Night at the Museum: The Secret of the Tomb (PG) Adults - \$5.50, children - \$3.50

Celebrate National Children's Dental Health Month

By Master Sgt. William Winslow 509th Medical Operations Squadron

The month of February is set aside every year as National Children's Dental Health Month (NCDHM), a time to focus on oral health education for all children.

The American Dental Association (ADA) began sponsoring the event in 1949 to promote the importance of good oral health beginning at a young age. This nationwide program has educated millions of children across the country over the last 65 years by working through schools, public facilities, community groups, military bases and dental offices. In support of the NCDHM celebration, Whiteman Air Force Base dental flight personnel will be providing presentations at Whiteman Elementary School. On Feb. 21 from 9 a.m.- noon, dental staff will host an educational booth at the Base Exchange. Free sport guards will also be available to patrons.

To further highlight the importance of developing good oral health in children, there will be a follow-on article titled "Fun dental facts." Please contact your private or civilian dentist for other special events in the area associated with NCDHM. If you would like more information you can visit the ADA website online at www.ada.org.

JE vaccine required for all service members traveling to Korea, Japan

By Airman 1st Class Megan McCleery 509th Medical Operations Squadron

The threat from Japanese encephalitis (JE) is small but real with a potential for very serious consequences. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control has recommended vaccination against JE for all Americans (2 months and older) who spend a month or more in the Republic of Korea (ROK) or Japan.

As a result, the Air Force surgeon general has provided guidance requiring all service members assigned, deployed or temporary duty to the ROK and Japan to receive the two-dose vaccine series. In addition, the vaccine is recommended for Department of Defense civilians and dependents.

What is Japanese encephalitis?

JE is a rare and preventable disease caused by a virus spread by infected mosquitoes in Asia and the western Pacific. The virus is one of a group of mosquito-transmitted viruses that can cause inflammation of the brain. It usually occurs in rural or agricultural areas, often associated with rice farming.

In temperate areas of Asia, transmission is seasonal and human disease usually peaks in the summer and fall. However, transmission can occur year-round, often with a peak during the rainy season. It takes five to 15 days to develop symptoms. Most will develop mild symptoms or none at all. In people who develop severe disease, initial symptoms include fever, chills, headache, fatigue, nausea and vomiting.

The disease can progress to inflammation of the brain and is often accompanied by seizures. Coma and paralysis can occur in rare cases. No specific treatments have been found to benefit patients with JE, but hospitalization for supportive care and close observation is generally required. Rest, fluids and use of pain relievers and medication to reduce fever may relieve some symptoms.

General vaccine information

The JE vaccine is a two-shot series given 28 days apart and is recommended for travelers 2 months and older. It was approved for use in March 2009 for 17 years of age and older. In May 2013, it was cleared for use in children 2 months through 16 years old. As with all immunizations, there are medical reasons that may prevent you from receiving the vaccine. If you have any questions or concerns about the vaccine please contact your healthcare provider or the immunization clinic.

For additional information about JE, please contact Whiteman AFB Public Health at (660) 687-4305.



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Lee Corso gets up close and personal with B-2



Lee Corso speaks with Senior Airman Ryan Gillis, 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron aerospace propulsion specialist, during a tour of Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Feb. 6, 2015. Corso is a former college football player and coach who now is a coanalyst on ESPN's College Game Day.



Lee Corso poses by the tail number of the B-2 Spirit of Nebraska with members of the 509th Bomb Wing Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Feb. 6, 2015. Corso was briefed on the B-2's mission and strategic deterrence capabilities.



Lee Corso and retired Maj. Gen. Anthony Przybyslawski, former 509th Bomb Wing commander, pose with current 509th BW leadership in front of a B-2 Spirit at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Feb. 6, 2015. Corso was the guest speaker during Whiteman's 2014 Annual Awards Banquet.



Lee Corso speaks with Staff Sgt. Tyler Gainey, 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron dedicated crew chief, during a tour of a B-2 Spirit at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Feb. 6, 2015. Corso was briefed on the B-2's mission and strategic deterrence capabilities.



Lee Corso, an ESPN college football analyst, poses before entering the cockpit of a B-2 Spirit at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Feb. 6, 2015. Corso was the guest speaker during Whiteman's 2014 Annual Awards Banquet.

U.S. Air Force photos/Airman 1st Class Joel Pfiester

News



BANJO'S THME CAPSULE By tset. Chris Borhlein

131st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

During the summer of 2013, the 131st Bomb Wing reached a significant milestone by earning its certification to operate in the nuclear mission with the B-2 Spirit stealth bomber. But this was not the first time that an Air National Guard unit operated with nuclear capabilities. In fact, the Missouri ANG had some familiarity with nuclear weapons during the early days of the Cold War.

From 1958 to 1962, the Missouri ANG unit in St. Louis was equipped with the nuclear-capable Republic F-84F Thunderstreak fighter aircraft. During this time, the unit was designated the 131st Tactical Fighter Wing (Special Delivery). The "special delivery" designation meant the unit trained in the delivery of tactical nuclear weapons. As part of that training,



aircrews were required to fly a mission once a month with a dummy bomb that mimicked the flight characteristics of a tactical nuclear bomb. Additionally, once a year, pilots were required to practicing dropping a dummy bomb in the "toss drop" style of delivery used to deliver tactical nuclear weapons.

During this period, the Soviet Union demanded withdrawal of Western forces from West Berlin which began

the Berlin Crisis of 1961. In response, many stateside fighter units were activated and forward-deployed to Europe as a deterrent to further Soviet aggression. Among them was the 131st TFW, which deployed to Toul-Rosieres Air Base, France in October. The F-84Fs were well-known by the Soviet Union as a fighter aircraft that sat on alert status all over Europe. By November, the 131st became part of one of the largest jet deployments to Europe in ANG history and helped to calm the situation, preventing the Soviet Union from expelling Allied forces from West Berlin.

Today, the 131st Bomb Wing and the Missouri ANG have consistently found themselves at the center of all the action. During the early years of the Cold War in Europe to present-day at Whiteman AFB, the members of the 131st continue to answer their state's and nation's calls with distinction.



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Garden Club–1st Thurs. of each month 6:30 p.m. - Trails Regional Library - Knob Noster Branch LOCAL ACTIVITIES

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The Warrior Feb. 13, 2015

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Whiteman AFB hosts annual awards banquet

By Airman 1st Class Jovan Banks 509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Award winners from Team Whiteman were recognized during the 2014 Annual Awards Banquet at the University of Central Missouri Elliot Student Union Banquet Room, Warrensburg, Mo., Feb. 6, 2015

Brig. Gen. Glen D. VanHerck, the 509th Bomb Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Shawn Drinkard, 509th BW command chief, presented this year's annual awards recognizing the top performers among enlisted, officer and civilian personnel.

"All the nominees are winners in our eyes but we could only pick one per category," said VanHerck. "To win a wing-level or installation award is a significant accomplishment. I am confident they can go on to win at the Air Force level. That is the caliber of people we have at Team Whiteman."

Tech. Sgt. Shonta Simes, the dining facility manager of the 509th Force Support Squadron, won the NCO of the Year category and believes these awards that are presented to Airmen are important because they give Airmen something to strive for and recognizes those whose work ethic is above and beyond what is required

"My Airmen played a huge role in my winning of an annual award. They stayed motivated and maintained the standard of our accomplishments being earned as a team and not as individuals," said Simes. "To win you must be willing to make personal sacrifices, find solutions to problems and realize the workday doesn't end until the tasks are complete."



Master Sgt. Dennis Caldwell, first sergeant of the 509th Bomb Wing Command Post, and Lee Corso, an ESPN college football analyst, pose for a photo prior to the 2014 Annual Awards Banquet at the University of Central Missouri Elliot Student Union Banquet Room, Warrensburg, Mo., Feb. 6, 2015. Corso and Caldwell are fans of two different college rival football teams

Congratulations to all of this year's annual award winners.

Volunteer of the Year **Tiffany Kalin** Honor Guard Member of the Year

Senior Airman Ryan McGarrigle – 509th Operations Support Squadron

Airman of the Year Senior Airman Mason Meherg – 509th Comptroller Squadron

NCO of the Year Tech. Sgt. Shonta Simes – 509th Force Support Squadron

> SNCO of the Year Master Sgt. Chad Faria – 509th OSS

First Sergeant of the Year Master Sgt. Trapper Otto – 509th Operations Group

CGO of the Year Capt. Jousha Hager – 509th Civil Engineer Squadron

> FGO of the Year Maj. Christopher Diller – 509th OSS

Civilian Associate of the Year Michael Pruismann – 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

> Civilian Specialist of the Year Kayla Horsman – 509th OSS

Civilian Supervisor of the Year **Rebecca White** – 509th FSS

Supervisor of the Year Tech. Sgt. Jason Biddlecome – 509th Maintenance Group Innovator of the Year Tech. Sgt. William Roberts – 509th Maintenance Squadron



Brig. Gen. Glen D. VanHerck, the 509th Bomb Wing commander, presents Lee Corso, with a memento on behalf of Team Whiteman for speaking at the 2014 Annual Awards Banquet at, Warrensburg, Mo., Feb. 6, 2015. Corso was the guest speaker during this year's Annual Awards Banquet.



Master Sgt. Chad Faria, wing intelligence superintendent of the 509th Operation Support Squadron, and his wife Christi, pose for a photo with Lee Corso during the 2014 Annual Awards Banquet at Warrensburg, Mo., Feb. 6, 2015. Faria was one of 13 award recipients at the Annual Awards Banquet.



Master Sgt. Trapper Otto, First Sergeant of the 509th Operation Support Squadron, accepts the 2014 First Sergeant of the Year award at Warrensburg, Mo., Feb. 6, 2015. Otto was one of 13 award recipients at the Annual Awards Banquet.



Members of Team Whiteman gather to congratulate the 2014 Annual Award winners at Warrensburg, Mo. Feb. 6, 2015. Military as well civilian members of Team Whiteman were recognized for exceptional performance throughout the year.

The Warrior **News 10** Feb. 13, 2015 The SAPR program: Providing comfort, support

By Senior Airman Keenan Berry 509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Whiteman's Sexual Assault Team Prevention and Response (SAPR) program recently won the Air Force Global Strike Command SAPR program of the year award and now will compete at the Air Force level.

The SARC team, last year's defending champion, is competing for their title by consistently working to find new ways to better serve Whiteman's populace.

In particular, the SAPR program is implementing two new ideas to help encourage sexual assault victims to come forward.

The first idea, as of Feb. 12, is to have a therapy dog present to help set a relaxed atmosphere for the victims. The dog is an 8-year old, 92-pound golden retriever named Sajak.

"This idea initiated from the fact that some people feel comfortable confiding their troubles in animals," said Anne Beem, 509th Bomb Wing sexual assault response coordinator. "Sajak can sit with the victims while they explain their situations."

Whiteman will be the first active-duty base to have a therapy dog within the SAPR program. It's a handy tool as it's scientifically proven pets can be a therapeutic source to help soothe and comfort humans.

"We may have a victim who has been violated by someone they know or trust and that person has lost faith in humans," said Amy Creighton, 509th Bomb Wing sexual assault victim advocate. "So they tend to reach out to animals because they represent a



Members of the 509th Bomb Wing Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) program pose for a group photo at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Jan. 7, 2015. The Whiteman AFB SAPR program recently won the Air Force Global Strike Command SAPR program of the year award for the second year in a row. They are currently competing at the Air Force level.

non-judgmental, trusting and loving creature."

Anonymity is an important concept the SAPR program aims to maintain. In order for victims to come forward, an environment of confidentiality must be present to make them feel comfortable with revealing their situation.

The SAPR team wants to find as many avenues as possible to encourage the victims to come forward and seek consolation. They are aware it may not be easy to explain

sexual assault situations because of fear of being judged or shifted blame, but the SAPR team is not there to judge. They extend an offer to those who want a place to come relax, eat lunch or watch TV.

'We have a serenity room which provides a place for those who just want to hang out," said Beem. "There's a table, chairs, TV, a couch and a massage chair as well, so don't be a stranger."

The SAPR program is for all service

members, civilians, spouses and dependents. No one is turned away from the help and support of Whiteman's SAPR program.

"We all love what we are doing and have a passion for changing the culture for the better at Whiteman AFB, and ultimately in the Air Force overall," said Creighton. "It is our desire to cultivate a program that the Whiteman community can be proud of and our Airmen can feel safe coming forward to if they are in need of help.'

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Airfield, aircrew safety after dark



Senior Airman Kathryn Raethel walks from the base operations building out to the flightline to look for any damaged or burnt out runway lights, as well as directional signs used by aircraft Feb. 9, 2015, at Joint Base Charleston, S.C. Whenever an in-flight emergency occurs, base operations is notified and begins informing several different agencies to handle the delicate situation. Raethel is a 437th Operations Support Squadron airfield management technician.

Story and photos by Senior Airman Dennis Sloan Joint Base Charleston Public Affairs

JOINT BASE CHARLESTON, S.C. (AFNS) -- As the sun sets and the street lights come on, many service members and civilians from Joint Base Charleston head home after a long day of work.

Meanwhile, some base members are just clocking in. Airmen from the 437th Operation Support Squadron work 24 hours a day, seven days a week, providing flying operations support to the 437th and 315th Airlift Wings.

Two units that provide support well into the night are aircrew flight equipment (AFE) and base operations.

"One of the most important parts of our job can only be accomplished at night, "said Senior Airman Kathryn Raethel, a 437th OSS airfield management technician. "With several military and civilian aircraft landing and taking off from here, there are thousands of lights that guide them and my job is to make sure they're all on."



The 437th Operations Support Squadron aircrew flight equipment Airmen are tasked with maintaining flight helmets and night vision goggles, as well as several other vital pieces of equipment used by aircrew members at Joint Base Charleston, S.C. They work through the night to ensure every piece of equipment is fully operational and safe to use. Raethel drives the entire length of the flightline during her night shifts, looking for any damaged or burnt out runway lights as well as directional signs used by aircraft.

"I enjoy the versatility of our mission," Raethal said. "I spend half my days out on the flightline and the other half in the office. I get the best of both worlds."

Whenever an in-flight emergency occurs, base operations is notified and begins informing several different agencies to handle the delicate situation.

"We interface with just about every agency on base," Raethal said. "When we get an in-flight emergency call, it's my job to immediately notify the fire department, medical personnel and many others to make sure the situation is handled as quick as possible."

While base operations Airmen ensure the safety of the airfield after hours, their teammates in AFE focus their efforts on the safety of the crewmembers themselves. Their mission is to maintain and supply all aircrew members with safe and reliable equipment. AFE Airmen handle and maintain night vision goggles, helmets, masks and even parachutes.

AFE Airmen go through extensive training to learn about every piece of equipment they maintain and earn certifications to accomplish certain aspects of their job. One job in particular which requires certification is parachute packing.

"There is no room for error in my job and I take pride in that," said Senior Airman Robert McCoy, a 437th OSS AFE technician. "We handle several items of equipment which need to work perfectly to assist aircrew members during emergencies and daily operations."

Even after dark when the C-17 Globemaster III's are only lit by the moonlight, AFE Airmen make their way to the aircraft and perform their inspections. Using available lights within the aircraft as well as flashlights, the Airmen go around and inspect the seats, masks and other equipment used by the aircrew.

"I enjoy working the night shifts," said Senior Airman Justin Turner, a 4437th OSS AFE technician. "I find it is

a bit easier to focus solely on the immediate task at hand; whereas, during the day there can be several distractions. It is an honor to do this mission and I'll gladly work day or night to make sure aircrew members have safe and reliable equipment at all times."



Senior Airman Justin Turner inspects a parachute before storing it for future use Feb. 9, 2015, at Joint Base Charleston, S.C. Aircrew flight equipment (AFE) technicians work through the night to provide aircrew members with safe and reliable equipment, including night vision goggles, helmets, masks and even parachutes. Turner is a 437th OSS AFE technician.

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14 The Warrior Feb. 13, 2015

News



by Airman 1st Class Joel Pfiester 509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Military Saves Week is scheduled to take place at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Feb. 23 – Feb. 28 as part of the Department of Defense Financial Readiness Campaign.

Military Saves Week is a chance for service members and their families to assess their own saving status and take financial action.

During this time, the Airman and Family Readiness Center will be providing financial guidance while encouraging service members to become financial savers by pledging to save through Military Saves.

Military Saves is a component of the nonprofit organization America Saves that seeks to motivate, support and encourage military families to save money, reduce debt and build wealth.

The AFRC will also be hosting the Heroes at Home financial education seminar March 6 from 2:30 p.m. -4:30 p.m. at Mission's End as a final contribution to Military Saves Week.

Savers are encouraged to promote these strategies each day of Military Saves Week.

1. Monday, Feb. 23: Save for emergencies

• How to do it: Find ways that you can save, even on a tight budget.

• Save for emergencies: Save a portion of your tax refund.

2. Tuesday, Feb. 24: Pay off high-interest debt

• How to do it: Find places to cut your spending so that you can pay down your debts faster.

• Find places to trim your expenses.

3. Wednesday, Feb. 25:

Save automatically • It can be hard to put aside money for savings. But there is an easy way to save money without ever missing it by making your savings automatic in 2015.

• How to do it: Set up an allotment in MyPay.

4. Thursday, Feb. 26:

Save for retirement • How to do it: Participate in the Thrift Savings Plan.

Save for retirement: Increase the amount you save toward retirement by one percent in 2015.

5. Friday, Feb. 27:

Save for a large purchase • Make a plan, save for a specific, measurable, attainable,

reasonable and timely (SMART) goalHow to do it: Participate in the Savings Deposit Program while deployed.

6. Saturday, Feb. 28:

Save (wrap up of previous days)

• How to do it: Are you ready to set your savings goal and make a plan to achieve it? Take the Military Saves Pledge today!

Savers can also get tips by following Military Saves on Facebook and Twitter and by reading the Military Saves blog. If you have any questions, contact the AFRC at (660) 687-7132.





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The Warrior **15** Feb. 13, 2015



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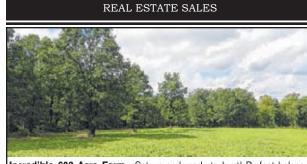
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