

WARRIOR

WHITEMAN AFB

FIRE RESCUE

pg 6 A RIDE WITH THE CAPTAIN
WILLIAM SHATNER BEAMS UP TO WHITEMAN

FIRING

ON ALL CYLINDERS

509TH CE FIREFIGHTERS TRAIN TO ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY

pg 8

pg 5 THE RIGHT PARTS
509TH AMXS KEEPING THE PIECES TOGETHER

The picture tells a story

By Col. Leah G. Lauderback
National Air and Space Intelligence Center

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio (AFNS) -- There is a picture frame on my desk holding a casual snapshot of my wife and me. There's nothing particularly special about the small, silver frame. But in my 22 years in the Air Force, it's the first time I've ever had a picture of anyone on my desk at work. Seeing my loved one during the duty day is such a joy. It puts a smile on my face, especially during those tough days, and it reminds me there is more to life than work.

Having a picture of my spouse on my desk is not something I take for granted because less than five years ago, it would not have been possible.

I am a gay Airman who served the first portion of my Air Force career under the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. Instituted on Feb. 28, 1994, DADT prohibited discriminating against homosexual or bisexual service members or applicants, but also barred openly gay, lesbian or bisexual persons from military service.

As pride month is celebrated across the nation and within the Department of Defense, I would like to take this opportunity to explain, from one Airman's perspective, what it meant to have DADT repealed on Sept. 20, 2011.

In 1994, I was just beginning my career in the Air Force. There's only one word to describe my early years as an Airman under DADT -- paranoia. Each day, I lived with the fear of exposure and losing my career. I worried a phone call to the office by my



Col. Leah G. Lauderback
National Air and Space
Intelligence Center

then-girlfriend would raise suspicion. The risk of being spotted together in town made dinners out a rare treat. I couldn't share my weekend plans with fellow Airmen and rarely let them know if I had done something by myself or with friends outside of work.

With each new assignment, I felt compelled to find one person with whom I could share my secret. Opening up to someone I trusted gave me peace of mind. It was comforting to know there was someone to call my girlfriend if anything ever happened to me. Reaching out to a wingman also improved my resiliency by giving me an outlet for communication. Once someone

knew my secret, I could open up to them and share stories about my other life.

I won't blame DADT for my relationships ending time after time, but it certainly didn't make it easier for me to build something lasting. As military members, we rely on our support system of family, friends and loved ones. When you're unable to bring your significant other to an Airman leadership school graduation or a dining-out, it makes for a lonely evening.

Overall, I'm a better, more complete Airman since the repeal of DADT. My work-life balance improved dramatically with the introduction of a wonderful woman whom I married a little more than a year ago. We enjoy everything about the military life, and we do it together. We have been welcomed with open arms at every event we attend -- both military and civic. My general officer supervisors congratulated me and immediately welcomed my wife into the family. Similarly, the Airmen I see every day around base and in the office ask how we are, what are we doing this weekend and what fun things have we experienced in the community. This is special to me and makes me love the Air Force even more!

Today in the Air Force, all Airmen, regardless of sexual orientation, may serve openly. And while orientation remains a personal and private matter, it's also not something you have to hide, and for that I am grateful. The repeal of DADT gave me the opportunity to serve this great nation as my whole-self. And it allowed me to put a small, silver picture frame in a place of honor -- front and center on my desk.

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.

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Message from Gen. Tibbets

Team Whiteman,

I would like to wish you all a happy Independence Day! On this day 239 years ago, our founding fathers adopted the Declaration of Independence. Drafted by Thomas Jefferson, the adoption of this document by the Continental Congress paved the way for a young nation fighting for its freedom.

I am proud to serve alongside our brothers and sisters in arms each and every day, but even more than that, I'm proud to be an American. July Fourth serves as a reminder of those great patriots who signed the Declaration, and the brave Americans who have worked, fought, and sacrificed so much to protect the freedoms and liberties declared in that very document.

While the celebration, festivities, and relaxation that come with this holiday weekend are well-deserved, safety must remain at the forefront of our minds. When we refresh ourselves for the challenging months to come, remember that we are accountable for each other, and it's up to each of us to make sure we stay safe this weekend.

As we celebrate together, stay smart, be safe, and



remember the brave men and women who laid the foundation for the United States of America!

Niner

PAUL W. TIBBETS IV
Brigadier General, USAF
Commander, 509th Bomb Wing

On the cover

U.S. Air Force photo/
Senior Airman Keenan Berry

A helmet waits to be used by firefighters from the 509th Civil Engineer Squadron at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., May 28, 2015. The helmet symbolizes camaraderie and brotherhood, and is a badge of honor for risking their lives to save others.

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Spirit Café

If you are a young Airman, let the Spirit Café make your time at Whiteman more fun. Stop by after work to play some pool, darts, foosball, or the newest games on Xbox One or Playstation 4. The Café opens at 4 p.m. during the week and noon on weekends. There is free dinner every Friday at 4:30 p.m. There are also free premium snacks and Wi-Fi. Come for the free stuff, stay for the fun and friends.

Please like the Spirit Café on Facebook to stay up to date on special events and tournaments.

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Airmen attend briefing on upcoming EES, WAPS changes



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Michaela R. Slanchik
Master Sgt. Jeremy Reed, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron first sergeant, takes notes during a briefing June 26, 2015, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. The briefing discussed upcoming changes in the Enlisted Evaluation System and Weighted Airman Promotion System.

By Airman 1st Class
Michaela R. Slanchik

509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Whiteman Airmen attended a briefing held by Air Force personnel experts at the base theater June 26 about the upcoming changes in the Enlisted Evaluation System and Weighted Airman Promotion System.

The experts spoke on the adjustments that have been made, the changes scheduled to occur and the reasons for the modifications.

"This briefing was very helpful because it went over all elements of the changing enlisted performance report system and its impact on how we will promote in the Air Force," said Airman 1st Class Carly Keyes, 509th Force Support Squadron force management journeyman. "Even so, the questions asked by the Whiteman community at the end of the briefing were even more helpful because those are the types of questions we receive here at the military personnel section."

Experts say the changes were essential in order to properly evaluate and promote the right Airmen at the right time.

Master Sgt. Joseph Lindley, 509th Comptroller Squadron first sergeant, believes the changes will help separate superior performers from the mediocre and give them an extra boost.

"The briefing filled in a number of



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Michaela R. Slanchik
Airmen attend a briefing at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., June 26, 2015, about the new changes in the Enlisted Evaluation System and Weighted Airman Promotion System. The briefing is also scheduled for other bases to inform Airmen of upcoming changes.

information voids that Airmen had," said Lindley.

The experts will continue traveling to other Air Force bases around the world to conduct similar briefings.

"It is a very good idea for them to host the 'roadshow' because every member deserves to know these changes and the

extent to which they are affected," said Keyes.

For more information about EES and WAPS changes, go to the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil>, select "enlisted" under the active duty, Guard or Reserve drop down menus, and then select "evaluations" in the left hand column.

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Upgraded AWACS platform tested at Northern Edge



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. William Banton

Maintenance crew members prepare an E-3G Sentry (AWACS) for takeoff during exercise Northern Edge June 25, 2015. Roughly 6,000 Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen from active-duty, Reserve and National Guard units participated.

By U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer
Larry Foos

Northern Edge 15 Joint Information Bureau
Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska (AFNS) -- Calmly soaring at 30,000 feet in the midst of nearly 100 fighters, bombers and refueling tankers executing a battle scenario, an E-3G Sentry (AWACS) surveys every aircraft in a 300-mile radius, calling out commands, verifying target hits and sending aircraft back home safely.

Threat detection, improvisation, air battle management – it's all part of a typical mission for the E-3G crew of the 964th and 966th Airborne Air Control Squadrons, at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, during exercise Northern Edge 2015 in the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex.

"We provide the command and control of the aircraft," said Maj. Dan Sprunger, the 964th AACS mission crew commander. "It's our job to oversee what's going on and, in real time, make changes in the air. We run the tanker plan, so when guys need gas, we send them there. If guys need to fall out, we shift aircraft around. We're like the chess master of the game."

With as many as 24 weapons officers, surveillance officers, radar and communication technicians, and flight deck crew on a single E-3G Northern Edge mission, the squadrons gained not only valuable, high-tempo warfare experience, but also met specific testing goals.

The E-3G carries an upgraded computer platform for their weapons and surveillance scopes, known as the Block 40/45. It advances their old operating system by about 30 years. Northern Edge enabled AWACS personnel to try the new system, and they quickly learned the value of the new features.

"It provides more situational awareness," said 1st Lt. Breann Hermann, a 964th AACS air weapons officer. "You can personalize it, and now you can build unlimited airspaces. It's more reliable and more technologically advanced."

After each mission, the crew provided feedback about how the Block 40/45 system worked and offered potential areas of improvement.

"The system cuts down on (operator's) steps. The ease of use is drastically higher, and the tracking process goes faster," Sprunger said.

By the end of the two-week, biannual Northern Edge exercise, the squadrons will have completed approximately 15 command and control missions using both old and new systems. Both AWACS aircraft effectively brought dozens of aircraft in and out of the battle range safely.

The premier joint training exercise in Alaska, Northern Edge 2015 combined approximately 200 military aircraft from all services to practice operations, techniques and procedures, while simultaneously enhancing interoperability within the JPARC and the Navy's Temporary Maritime Activities Area in the Gulf of Alaska. Nearly 6,000 Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen from active-duty, Reserve and National Guard units participated.

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The aircraft auto zone, parts on standby



Conditions tags lie on a desk at Whiteman Air Force, Mo., May 19, 2015. The inspector of the part will color code based on the items condition and fill out the tag with the part's information. The Flight Service Center will ship out the green XD2 tag items to their respective repair depot to be repaired and brought back to replenish stock. They will also take the serviceable items with yellow tags to their respective stock location to ensure the part is ready for maintenance to install in the aircraft.

U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Keenan Berry

By Senior Airman Keenan Berry
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

When an aircraft breaks down, the parts store is always there to ensure it gets off the ground. With parts on hand and a steadfast attitude, the aircraft parts store crew ensures the mission never misses a beat by fulfilling their middleman duties.

With a building that boasts 245,000 square feet of storage and an average of 226,800 parts on hand on any given day, the APS is able to support both home-station and contingency requirements for the 509th Bomb Wing, showing their involvement in providing strategic deterrence, global power and combat support to combatant and joint force commanders---anytime, anywhere.

"We support the mission because we know how vital our mission is in keeping the aircraft ready for flight here at Whiteman," said Staff Sgt. Justin Clover, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron NCO in charge of the flight service center. "When maintenance request an asset as a red ball APS is there to pull it and ensures the asset is delivered within half an hour. Runners are sent to retrieve incoming and unserviceable assets to ensure parts are turned in or put away to expedite handling procedures."

The APS is open 24 hours/365 days a year in support of 20 B-2 Spirit stealth bombers, 14 T-38 Talons, and 26 A-10 Thunderbolt IIs, which have a collective value of \$46 billion. The 17 Airmen in this section are charged with storing, pulling, stocking, and maintaining aircraft assets worth more than \$195 million.

The APS is responsible for the airborne mobility readiness spares packages (AMRSP) program for the B-2 and the A-10.

"It's a huge aspect on the maintenance mission because if we do not complete this task in a timely manner, the assets will get held up at the repair facility," said Airman 1st Class Hector Reyes 509th LRS flight service center journeyman.

In addition to the AMRSP program, APS Airmen also oversee the mission support kit (MSK) to ensure they have all the equipment and supplies they need for the trip.

"We build up the kits in accordance with the list of assets maintenance requested; two people usually deploy with the kits and they go to support maintenance while on temporary duty (TDY) or stationed for support," Clover said. "We will pack up the mission support kits which contain critical assets that are needed to repair the aircrafts on sight. The equipment is stored and inventoried to be loaded onto a cargo plane for

deployment or TDY purposes."

Nestled adjacent to the Aircraft Parts Store is the flight service center (FSC). Maintenance is responsible for returning assets in need of repair to the FSC and, in turn, the APS will issue a replacement part. Clover states that his section's duty is to receive all recoverable assets from maintenance units along with processing disposition shipments. He further clarifies that if the parts are unserviceable and can be repaired, the parts are sent to the appropriate repair facility off base. Once repaired, the assets are returned to be issued to maintenance.

"We use warehouse validation which entails ensuring the aircraft parts are accounted for and mission ready for maintenance installation," said Reyes. "This process helps ensure we are keeping track of all parts that are inbound and outbound. In addition to distributing and ensuring accountability, the team takes pride in implemented camaraderie in their daily duties."

Keeping track of essential assets is a huge priority and couldn't be done without teamwork and healthy camaraderie.

"I enjoy my job and working alongside a great group of fellow Airmen," said Reyes. "My coworkers make coming to work very exciting and in return, make the job worthwhile."

William Shatner visits Team Whiteman

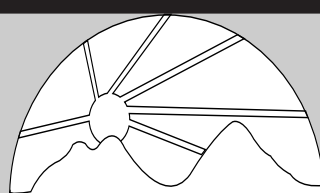


U.S. Air Force photos/Staff Sgt. Alexandra M. Longfellow
ABOVE: Actor William Shatner, who played Captain Kirk on the 1960's TV series "Star Trek," sits on the Northrop Grumman B-2 bike and talks to Team Whiteman on June 24, 2015, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. Shatner is traveling 2,400 miles over eight days to raise awareness for the American Legion.
LEFT: Actor William Shatner sits on the Northrop Grumman B-2 bike, during a brief tour at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., June 24, 2015. Shatner is traveling 2,400 miles over eight days across America to raise awareness for the American Legion.

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Knob Noster Board of Aldermen—1st & 3rd Tues. each month - Basement of City Hall
Whiteman Area Piecemakers Quilt Guild—3rd Thurs. each month 7 p.m. - Methodist Church
AMVETS—Membership Dinner 1st Tues. each month 6 p.m. - AMVETS Building

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AFSC merger ensures airborne situational awareness

By Tech. Sgt. Torri Hendrix
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs
Command Information

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- With the fiscal constraints recently seen in the Air Force, many changes have taken place to safeguard the survivability of missions and career fields. Some of those changes came in the form of career-field mergers, especially within the career enlisted aviator specialties.

Last November, Airmen from the Air Force Specialty Code 1A4X1, airborne operations, were absorbed under the AFSC 1A3X1, airborne mission systems. Airmen in the airborne mission systems are now the eyes and ears on aircraft such as the E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System, the E-3 Sentry (AWACS), the E-4B, and distinguished visitor airlift.

Eighty-four AFSC 1A4X1, AC-130 gunship sensors, were absorbed under the AFSC 1A9X1, special missions aviation, career field to consolidate the special operations forces mission set.

"The merger has increased available assignments and positions for these aviators," said Senior Master Sgt. Annika L'Ecuyer, the Headquarters Air Force assistant CEA career field manager. "It allows more flexibility in the career field and broadens the Airmen's skill set."

These Airmen are now responsible not only for visual awareness and control of the battlespace, but also for the planning and communications required for full-scale, multinational operations, all from more than 35,000 feet in the air.

Like all changes, this career-field combination has its own set of challenges and growing pains.

"Mergers are hard and time-consuming," said Chief Master Sgt. Al Davis, the Headquarters Air Force CEA career field manager. "Everyone needs to be in lock-step, and that all starts at the CEA Center of Excellence."

The center stood up in 2006, and provides the foundational training for all enlisted aircrew members before they continue training in their unique specialties. The center saves the Air Force between \$1.6 and \$1.8 million a year in travel costs.

"We got rid of archaic training while coupling two (AFSCs) with similar specialties," said Senior Master Sgt. Marc Gibson, the 344th Training Squadron Center of Excellence Operations superintendent.

The dedicated instructors ensure every enlisted aviator has all the tools and knowledge needed to make the next step in their flying careers, whether they're straight from Air Force Basic Military Training, or re-training into a different career field.

"By implementing the 1A4 full-motion video capability into the curriculum, we're able to combine maintaining the (airborne) systems with operating those systems," Gibson explained. "The results are aviators who have more robust capabilities on the operator side."

The updates to the training will ensure AFSC 1A3X1 Airmen are able to provide eyes and ears on the battlespace, and give the Air Force all the knowledge needed to make a kinetic decision on any potential or actual threat.

For more information on the AFSC 1A3X1 career field, send a message to usaf.pentagon.af-a3.mbx cea-recruiting@mail.mil.



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Welcome to the brotherhood



Members from the 509th Civil Engineer Squadron perform an aircraft exercise at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., May 28, 2015. The structural exercise ensures firefighting readiness capabilities are fine tuned.



The reflection of Airman 1st Class Luis Betancur, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, is shown in a puddle as he dons a helmet at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., May 28, 2015.



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgts. Nathan Silk, right, and Jason Lopez, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighters, inventory equipment at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., May 28, 2015. Keeping inventory is important to ensure equipment is accounted for in order to perform daily duties.



Members from the 509th Civil Engineer Squadron perform a structural exercise at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., May 28, 2015. Firefighters train hard daily, ensuring each member understands the proper procedures and protocol necessary to fight fires.



Airman Cody Burns, right, and Airman 1st Class Kaleb Frazier, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighters, inspect a fire truck's engine oil and transmission fluid at Whiteman Air Force Base Mo., May 28, 2015. Firefighters understand the significant impact their job has on the mission and on Whiteman's safety.



The pump panel of a fire truck remains available for emergencies at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., May 28, 2015. The pump panel is used to direct water flow to the appropriate hose lines.



Gen. Larry O. Spencer Innovation Award unveiled



U.S. Air Force photo/Scott M. Ash

Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James and Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Larry O. Spencer pull the shroud during the ceremonial unveiling of the Gen. Larry O. Spencer Innovation Award, named in Spencer's honor, June 29, 2015, at the Pentagon. The idea was conceived by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III to recognize Airmen who share their creative and efficient ways to save money and time.

By Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs Command Information

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James, along with Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Larry O. Spencer, unveiled the "Innovation Award" named in honor of Spencer during a ceremony in the Airman's Hall at the Pentagon June 29.

The award conceptualized by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, is intended to annually recognize Airmen who come up with creative and efficient ways to save money and time.

"The award is new, but what's not new is the laser focus on innovation and the passion that General Spencer has brought to us in many ways," James said. "General Spencer has put much of his personal time into innovation and efficiency."

According to James, the programs championed by Spencer, the Every Dollar Counts campaign and the Airman Powered by Innovation website, are working so well that the Air Force is saving more than \$35 million annually.

"As I have traveled the Air Force, I see it working," James said. "I see that Airmen are finding new, innovative and cost-saving ways to get our mission done."

Not only did Spencer champion the ideas of innovation and saving with the programs, he also spent time personally responding to emails and hosting video



U.S. Air Force photo/Scott M. Ash

Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Larry O. Spencer speaks during the ceremony where Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James unveiled the Gen. Larry O. Spencer Innovation Award June 29, 2015, at the Pentagon. The idea was conceived by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III to recognize Airmen who share their creative and efficient ways to save money and time.

teleconferences with Airmen around the world.

"The real innovation is out in the field, and we need to cultivate those ideas and encourage those Airmen," Spencer said. "There are great ideas out there and we owe it to our Airmen to listen to them."

The Gen. Larry O. Spencer Innovation Award will be awarded for the first time July 23 at the Pentagon.

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Game changer: Airman gives back, grows as mentor to high school football team

By Senior Airman Alexander W. Riedel
36th Wing Public Affairs

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam (AFNS) -- (This feature is part of the "Through Airmen's Eyes" series. These stories focus on individual Airmen, highlighting their Air Force story.)

As the sun hangs in a warm glow over the Pacific island, a group of prospective Guam High School football players eagerly reach for a chilled bottle of water as they take a break from football drills at Andersen Air Force Base.

A few moments later, they are summoned back to the field and queue up to run several yards before reaching for a wide pass from across the field.

"Good catch!" compliments their coach with a high-five as he readies for the next throw.

For almost a month now, Senior Airman Presley Griffith, a 36th Mobility Response Squadron executive assistant, spends three evenings per week coaching free preseason conditioning training for prospective high school football players.

"I've played football since third grade and I realized how important practicing in the spring is to prepare and get ready (for the fall season)," Griffith said. "When I learned that students here did not have a training camp yet, I decided to help out. Now, students get to throw the ball on an actual football field and run through drills and movements together as a team in preparation for the upcoming season."

Growing up in Fouke, Arkansas, football was at the center of life for the former quarterback and continues to be a lifelong passion for the Airman. During his senior year, Griffith's commitment on the field earned him the chance to attend Football University's Top Gun High School Camp, an intense training event reserved for top players. He received pointers and mentorship from experienced coaches, former NFL players and was also scouted by Southern Arkansas University, which later offered him an opportunity to join their team after graduation.

The offer, however, placed Griffith in a bind. A battery of injuries suffered during the competitive high school season had taken a toll on the young student, making his decision to advance into an even more demanding level of the sport a difficult one.

If he continued his studies to play at the collegiate level, Griffith recalled, he and his family feared he'd risk his health and professional future.

"I remember first hearing that teams were interested in me. I was ecstatic and excited about being able to play at the next level," Griffith said. "But when it came time to decide, my mind was in the game, but my body wasn't. I knew I couldn't go to college and get beat up like I was in high school."

Another long-time childhood dream, joining the Air Force, quickly started to come into renewed focus for the athlete.

"I wanted to be in the military ever since I was a little kid," he recalled. "I realized that I could join the military and still pursue a coaching degree and the necessary certifications, all while serving my country."

His passion to assist young athletes is more than just game strategy and technical instruction, Griffith said. The students often look for role models and answers about life after high school -- turning coaching into mentoring.

"Being a young volunteer coach allows me to work on a very personal level with the players," he said. "I was just in their shoes a few years ago. I get to tell them about how important and valuable their time is right now, to give 100 percent effort and to also enjoy it every step of the way, because they are going to miss it later."

Unexpectedly, Griffith said Air force life offers an excellent opportunity to advance his coaching experience at different schools and pursue his education, on his way to meet his ultimate goal of becoming a high school history teacher and football coach.

"I realized how much coaches have helped me grow as a person," he said. "You learn a lot about discipline, values and mentorship. That is my goal in life, to be a high school football



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Alexander W. Riedel
Senior Airman Presley Griffith, a 36th Mobility Response Squadron executive assistant, offers a free football spring practice camp as volunteer coach at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. A former high school quarterback, Griffith is working toward his goal of becoming a high school football coach.

coach and to mentor young athletes.

"The students are the long-term goal," Griffith continued. "It's not about winning every game, but about getting better, fine-tuning your skill and getting the opportunity to keep playing at the next level. And we try to make this possible for the athletes here."

His assistance is also appreciated by Guam High School's coach, who said he enjoys seeing the enthusiasm in students.

"Having Senior Airman Griffith out here, bringing his experience to a team, is something we're very happy to have," said Jacob Dowdell, the Guam High School coach. "It's all about keeping kids active and healthy. And it's a community effort. With Griffith leading this training, you can tell students respond

to him. They anxiously await his arrival and are ready to work. It's a real pleasure having him here."

To be able to meet with the student athletes after work, Griffith manages a balancing act between work, taking distance education college classes and his wife, who is also expecting their first child.

During duty hours, Griffith currently assists the 36th MRS commander with any and all administrative needs. Whether it's processing performance reports, decorations or handling correspondence and appointments, he manages the organizational needs for his office.

While spending several hours conducting weekly coaching sessions requires careful planning, Griffith's leaders have been supportive of his efforts whenever possible, he said.

"Senior Airman Griffith has always expressed an interest in coaching football," said Tech. Sgt. Cheryl Turonis, the 36th Wing NCO in charge of the wing support staff and Griffith's former supervisor. "I am glad to see that he is pursuing his goal through volunteering with the Guam High School Football team."

In the near future, Griffith hopes to complete his volunteer coaching package, which would allow him to officially join the local high school's coaching team as an assistant.

"There are plenty of opportunities to help in the community," Griffith said. "You just have to go out and try. It's important to give 100 percent of your heart. It's going to take some time, but you're going to help and benefit kids in the future. Just know that they are going to look up to you and it's paramount to be an appropriate role model for them."

Until his next permanent change of station, Griffith plans to continue coaching, improving as a mentor and attending the local high school games.

However, he said there is one downside to being a football fan on a remote island in the Pacific: Watching live football broadcasts may turn into an unexpected challenge as games air with a 14-hour time difference from the East Coast. Griffith's joy for the game thus often keeps him up and in front of the TV at odd hours of the night, as he catches the latest developments in stadiums half a world away.

"My wife fully understands my love for the game," Griffith said. "She gets up with me at 4 a.m. on Sunday mornings to watch the games and understands how much it means to me."



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Alexander W. Riedel
Jacob Dowdell, the Guam High School head coach, left, supervises Senior Airman Presley Griffith, a 36th Mobility Response Squadron executive assistant, second from left, as he teaches a free football spring practice camp June 8, 2015, at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. Griffith hopes to someday become a high school football coach and volunteers his time to offer an additional preseason training opportunity to local high school athletes.

Enroll newborns in TRICARE within 60 days of birth

By Master Sgt. Carolyn Stewart
14th Medical Support Squadron

COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. -- Service members are reminded to enroll their newborns into TRICARE within 60 days of birth or 120 days in overseas areas.

When newborns are not enrolled within the first 60 days of birth, this can cause claims processing issues and parents incur costly out-of-pocket expenses.

Members who want their newborns to have TRICARE Prime coverage must call or send an enrollment form within 60 days of birth. Adopted or birth newborns born to a TRICARE Prime enrolled parent is automatically covered under TRICARE Prime for the first 60 days. Thereafter, if an enrollment form is not submitted by day 61 of birth, the newborn's coverage is converted to TRICARE Standard.

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Ensure you are submitting enrollment forms for all eligible family members for coverage and to eliminate costly out-of-pocket expenses.

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