

WARRIOR



IMMEDIATE AID

► **WHITEMAN HOLDS MASS ACCIDENT RESPONSE EXERCISE:**
PG.8 TESTING AIRMENS' READINESS AND RESPONSE TIMES

► **MED GROUP MAKEOVER**
PG.3 509TH MEDICAL GROUP GETS NEW SQUADRON PATCH

► **PRIDE & PATRIOTISM**
PG.5 WHITEMAN SIGNS LGBT PROCLAMATION



Beat the Boss

The Beat the Boss program is a monthly PT test competition between 509th Bomb Wing units that will recognize outstanding teamwork and devotion to fitness at the Squadron level. Active duty 509th Airmen who score the same or higher than the commander's score of 95.4% will earn a one-day pass, and those who score a 100% win a one-day pass and one of the commander's coins.

Here are the Beat the Boss results:



Airman Jacob Rattin, 509th SFS • 95.5%

Airman 1st Class Brian Bedell, 509th SFS • 97.3%

Maj. Mikel Merritt, 509th MDOS • 96.3%

Staff Sgt. Stephan Johnson, 509th SFS • 95.7%

Capt. Nicholas Burg, 72d TES • 96.6%

Airman Marki Schaefer, 509th LRS • 97.2%

Capt. Amy Cottrell, 131st MDG • 98.6%



Excellence

the True Spirit and Legacy of Whiteman AFB

*Save the date: Saturday, September 17th
at Hangar 52*

2016 Air Force Ball



THE WARRIOR

Editorial Staff

Brig. Gen. Paul W. Tibbets IV
509th Bomb Wing Commander

Capt. Karl Wiest
Chief, Public Affairs

2nd Lt. Matthew Van Wagenen
Public Affairs Officer

Senior Airman Jovan Banks
Editor

Senior Airman Danielle Quilla
Senior Airman Sandra Marrero
Senior Airman Joel Pfister
Airman 1st Class Keenan Berry
Airman 1st Class Jazmin Smith
Airman 1st Class Michaela Slanchik

Photojournalists

The Sedalia Democrat
Layout and Design

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.

This civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of **The Warrior** are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement of the products or services advertised by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force or the **Sedalia Democrat**.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs office of 509th Bomb Wing, Whiteman Air Force Base. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

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/
Senior Airman Jovan Banks

A firefighter from the 509th Civil Engineer Squadron makes adjustments to his gear prior to engaging with a simulated aircraft fire during a major accident response exercise (MARE), at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., June 8, 2016. The exercise is conducted to test the readiness and response times in case of a major accident.

NEWS BRIEFS



U.S. Air Force Eagle Eyes provides service members and civilians a safe, discreet and anonymous option to report criminal information, counterintelligence indicators or force protection concerns.

To submit a web tip go to <http://www.tipsubmit.com/WebTips.aspx?AgencyID=1111> or the AFOSI web page at <http://www.osi.af.mil>

How to report an anonymous tip using a smart phone:

1. Use the smart phone app
2. Manually select an agency
3. Choose USA then Federal Agency then select AFOSI
4. Create a passport, select New Tip and fill out the form with as much information as possible.

How to report an anonymous tip VIA text message:

Text "AFOSI" plus your tip information to 274637 (CRIMES)

Air Force Housing website

Visit www.housing.af.mil to find your new home with the Air Force. This website 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.

Stealth Lounge

If you are a young Airman, let the Stealth Lounge 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 lounge 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 Stealth Lounge on Facebook to stay up to date on special events and tournaments.

Found property

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

WEATHER

Today	Saturday
Sunny	Sunny
Hi 92	Hi 93
Lo 70	Lo 71

Sunday	Monday
Sunny	Mostly Sunny
Hi 92	Hi 91
Lo 72	Lo 72

Medical group goes "nuclear"

By Col. Judy Stoltmann
509th Medical Group

Dec. 18, 2015, was a historic day for the 509th Medical Group (MDG), when its new emblem was approved and unveiled by Brig. Gen. Paul W. Tibbets IV, the 509th Bomb Wing commander. If you were stationed at Whiteman Air Force Base (AFB), Mo., before this date, you may have noticed the medical group's emblem differed from the wing and the other groups. In our efforts to learn more about our group's heritage, we discovered something very interesting. In April 1993, shortly before the 509th moved to Whiteman AFB, the then-appointed medical group commander wrote a letter to the Air Force historical research agency. In that letter, the commander requested a waiver to keep the emblem of the 509th Strategic Hospital, which had been at Pease AFB, N.H. from March 1959 through December 1990. The commander's reason for the request was the atomic cloud burst on the wing's emblem did not correlate to the medical profession of healing.

Although I understand the commander's reasoning in 1993, as soon as we found out we could rescind the waiver, we did so. Why? One reason is because AFI 84-105,



Organizational Lineage, Honors and Heraldry, states that a group "assigned to a like-numbered wing must use the wing's emblem." But there is more to it than that. Just as the 509th Bomb Wing (BW) is proud of its heritage and mission, we at the 509th MDG are proud of that heritage and mission, and are extremely honored to support it. I make it a point to explain to group newcomers and remind all staff about how important they are to the mission. In fact, the wing would not be able to complete its mission without the hard work and dedication of the professional men and women of the 509th MDG. In light of this, how could we

not adopt the wing emblem? Of course it is normally not the medical group's job to strike our enemies, but rather to help those who are injured or ill. The wing's emblem includes the atomic cloud burst depicting the two atomic bombs dropped in WWII and how we, today, use weapons as deterrence. It also includes a pair of distinct wings. These wings are not displayed in the usual outstretched manner, but rather mirror the way the ancient Greeks communicated their peaceful intentions by showing the palms of their hands. In other words, the wing's emblem reminds us not only of our history, but emphasizes that we advocate peace throughout the world.

Although it is important to reflect on our past, it is just as important to plan for the future. Dec. 18, 2015, was historic not only because we unveiled our new emblem, but because we also conducted a "wall breaking" ceremony for our extensive facility renovations. These renovations will touch almost every section in the clinic and will take almost three years to complete. The remodeled facility will help us to better serve our active duty members and their families, as well as our retirees and their families. The medical group will continue to build on our rich history to ensure we provide "Trusted Care—Anywhere!"

AF program increases access to behavioral health care

By Kathleen Canfield
779th Medical Support Squadron, Marketing

Nearly half of people with a treatable behavioral health disorder do not seek help from behavioral health professionals, according to the Department of Health and Human Services. However, 80 percent of this population does visit a primary care manager at least once a year. An Air Force program seeks to bridge this gap by providing behavioral health care in a primary care setting.

The Behavioral Health Optimization Program (BHOP) integrates behavioral health personnel into primary care clinics to provide "the right care, at the right time, in the right place." Beneficiaries with behavioral health concerns can seek care directly through their primary care manager.

Issues such as compounding stress can lead to depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, or general anxiety disorders. Often times, problems resulting in adverse mental health effects can be addressed by primary care providers through the support of behavioral health services.

"We are there to address the concerns that would have otherwise been brought to the primary care manager," said Maj. Elizabeth Najera, the chief of the program, overseen by the Air Force Medical Operations Agency.

For instance, when a patient suffering severe headaches sees a primary care manager, it is determined whether the patient needs to be referred to neurology or requires additional examination from primary care. BHOP visits function in the same manner and patients are screened to help identify the right level of care.

According to Najera, only 1 out of 10 patients seen requires referral to specialty care. Mild depression, anxiety or grief may not require specialty mental health services. While specialty care is beneficial when that is the appropriate level of care, it may not be necessary for a normal process like bereavement. Even if a patient visit warrants a specialty care referral, time required for specialty care is reduced by BHOP intervention.

"BHOP is an excellent first step in seeking care if (someone has) any behavioral health concerns with either a medical or lifestyle component," Najera said. "Everyone can consider at least one BHOP encounter appropriate, while not everyone may require a second visit."

BHOP consultations typically do not require more than four visits. A BHOP appointment lasts about 25 minutes and patients leave with some form of same-day intervention. Patients are triaged to ensure they get the appropriate resources and providers determine what level of care is needed.

BHOP helps to address a wide range of health related behaviors which

can worsen medical conditions, including diabetes, chronic pain, sleep problems, and hypertension.

Another benefit of BHOP is the ease of use. Half of all scheduled visits are same-day appointments. BHOP seeks to address a large patient volume with same-day care. According to Najera, the goal is to address patient needs as they arise rather than having patients wait.

"(A BHOP visit) is considered a primary care appointment and there is no difference in how it is treated in a patient's electronic health record," Najera said.

BHOP offers two types of services and patients will either see Internal Behavioral Health Consultants (IBHCs) or Behavioral Health Care Facilitators (BHCfs). IBHCs include both psychologists and social workers who provide focused assessments and recommendations to help primary care providers with decisions about patients' behavioral health concerns. BHCfs are nurses who work directly with patients who have been prescribed psychotropic medications by their primary care provider for depression, anxiety or PTSD.

The goal of BHOP is to help patients and providers reach desired and realistic behavioral health outcomes. This includes improving quality of life or returning to a level of functioning closer to a patient's goal. Some patients may walk away learning to manage chronic conditions, while having improved day-to-day functioning.

In a 2015 survey of 631 patients, almost 90 percent reported being very or extremely satisfied with the BHOP experience and over 95 percent stated they would probably or definitely recommend BHOP to a friend or family member.

Patients who received care through BHOP were asked if they would have sought behavioral health services if BHOP had not been available. Of those surveyed, 30 percent reported they would not have sought any care if not for BHOP.

Those with behavioral health concerns are encouraged to speak to their primary care providers. BHOP emphasizes that seeking help is a sign of strength and prevention is key. For those in need of behavioral health care, seeking care could help prevent a negative life impact.

Any individuals experiencing escalated behavioral health issues including thoughts of harming themselves should go to the nearest hospital emergency room and seek help immediately.

BHOP is available at 72 of the 76 Air Force military treatment facilities. The program is open to all military beneficiaries and walk-ins are accepted. BHOP does not require a referral. To schedule a BHOP appointment, beneficiaries are advised to call the appointment line.

Reel Time Theaters

We're saving a seat for you.

FRIDAY, JUNE 10 • 7 p.m. **SATURDAY, JUNE 11 • 4 & 7 p.m.**

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles:

Out of the Shadows (PG-13) Out of the Shadows (PG-13)

Adults - \$6.25, children - \$4.00 Adults - \$6.25, children - \$4.00

SUNDAY, JUNE 12 • 1 & 4 p.m.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows (PG-13)

Adults - \$6.25, children - \$4.00



BHOP

Behavioral Health Optimization Program

- For Active Duty, Dependents, and Retirees
- Services within the Family Health Clinic
- Provided by a Licensed Clinical Social Worker
- Variety of areas addressed
 - Sleep, Stress, PTSD, Depression, Anxiety, Parenting, Relationships, Weight Loss, and MANY more...
- Quicker access to appointments
- Short term treatment alternative to Mental Health



Call 660-687-2188
Ask for a
BHOP appointment



Strengthen your Physical & Mental CAF pillars

Sleep
Fact #1

SLEEP SUPPORTS RESILIENCY

Studies show that sleep deficiency alters activity in some parts of the brain. If you're sleep deficient, you may have trouble making decisions, solving problems, controlling your emotions and behavior, and coping with change.

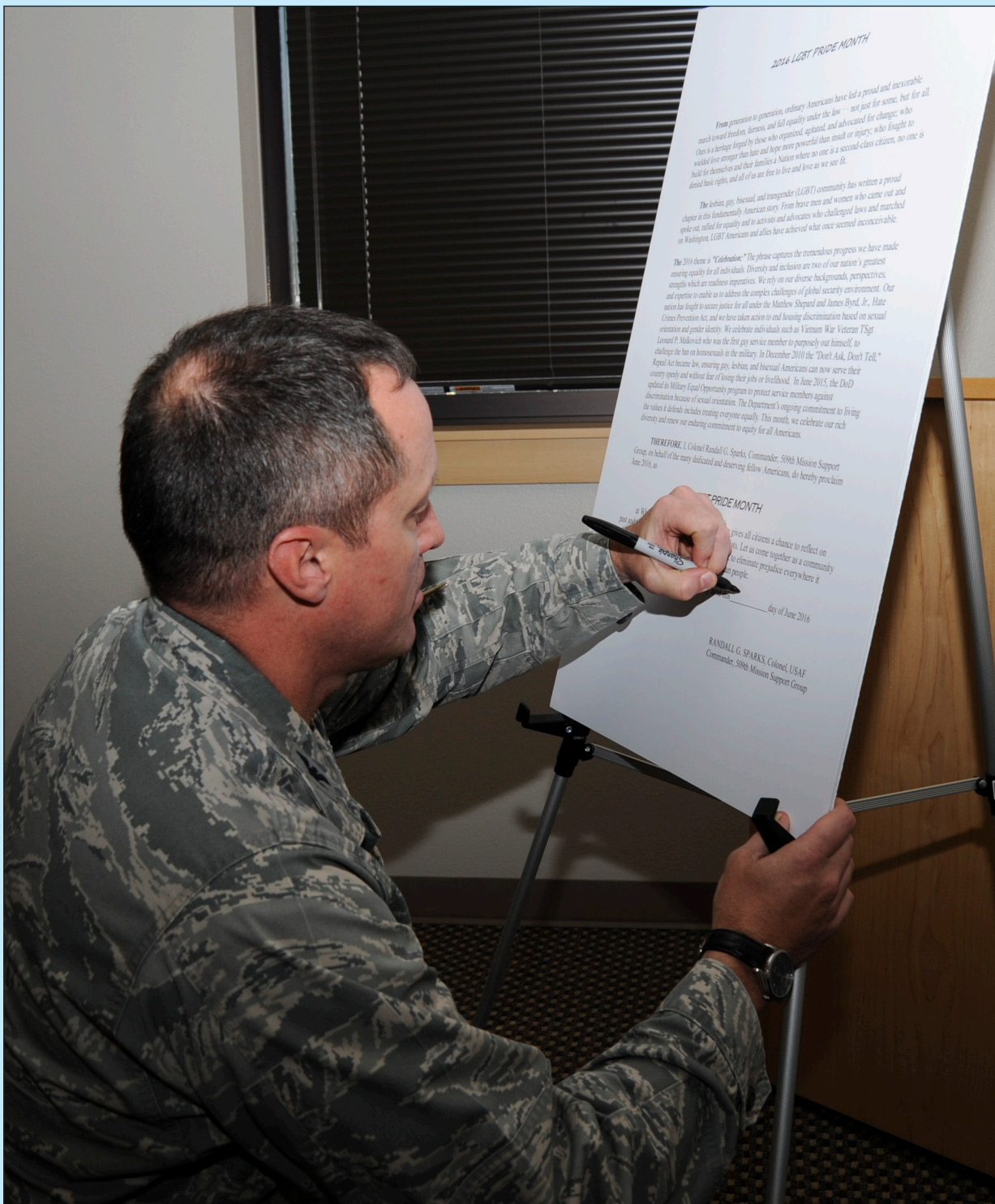


AIR FORCE MEDICINE
TRUSTED CARE, ANYWHERE
WWW.AIRFORCEMEDICINE.AF.MIL

LGBT Proclamation Signing



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Danielle Quilla
U.S. Air Force Col. Randall Sparks, the commander of the 509th Mission Support Group, speaks to a group during the June 2016 LGBT Pride Month Proclamation Signing at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., June 2. The 2016 theme is celebration, which captures the progress that has been made to ensure equality for all individuals.



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Danielle Quilla
U.S. Air Force Col. Randall Sparks, the commander of the 509th Mission Support Group, signs the June 2016 LGBT Pride Month Proclamation at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., June 2. Sparks encouraged everyone to celebrate diversity and continue their commitment to equity for all Americans.

Peak Season

By Brian McCandless

509th Logistics Readiness Squadron

The military's summer Permanent Change of Station (PCS) season is in full swing and will last until mid-August. Proper preparation, and a positive attitude, will hopefully help minimize the stress of change.

If a PCS move seems like a daunting task, remember you are not alone. The U.S. Transportation Command's Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command reported that the Department of Defense conducted 520,000 moves last year, and about 40 percent of those moves occurred during the summer season.

Experienced in dealing with that volume of movement, the personnel at your local Traffic Management Office (TMO) are ready to assist with all of your PCS needs. Upon receipt of orders, you have the option of scheduling a face-to-face counseling session or you can go to the Defense Personal Property System, accessed via the website, www.move.mil, to register, login and set up your move. Customers will find online training and presentations explaining how to navigate through the move process. In addition, here are some moving tips:

- Diligent planning, attention to detail and flexibility will help lessen the stress that often accompanies a PCS, especially during peak season.

- Once you receive your hardcopy orders, immediately contact TMO or register online to start your move for a better chance to lock in your preferred pick-up and delivery dates.

- Create a personal move calendar with checklists, phone numbers, dates and important web links.

- Ask questions early, either directly to our TMO professionals or by accessing DPS, which can place you in direct contact with your commercial carrier to manage your personal property move. It is extremely important to keep your phone number and e-mail address updated.

- Requested pick-up and delivery dates are not confirmed until you and your commercial carrier mutually agree on the actual pack and pick-up dates.

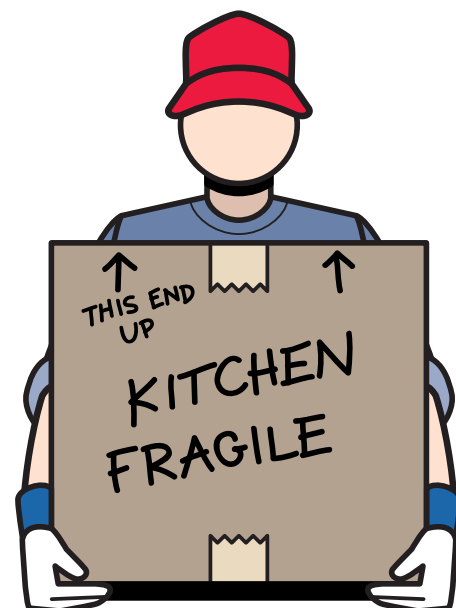
- Pack, pick-up and delivery dates are normally on weekdays in which you, or your designated representative, must be available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Longer hours may be required in some cases.

Moving in the summer months is extremely busy for all involved. Please stay flexible and prepare properly so you successfully arrive at your next duty station ready for continued service.

TMO contact numbers:

Commercial: 660-687-4118/7082/4125

DSN: 975-4118/7082/4125



Whiteman Tier II present donation to Green Dot program



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Miguel Lara III

Members of the Whiteman Tier II present Whiteman Green Dot program representatives with a \$150 donation certificate at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., May 24, 2016. The donation will increase the funds available for the Green Dot program to train Airmen on techniques to identify signs of potential interpersonal violence and equipping them with intervention strategies.

USSTRATCOM Roadshow spouse's meeting



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Danielle Quilla
U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Andrew J. Gebara, the deputy director of nuclear operations, global operations directorate at U.S. Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM), speaks to spouses at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., June 1, 2016. The briefing was held to educate spouses on the mission of USSTRATCOM and discuss current events affecting the nation's security.

RECYCLE
This
Paper ...
Think
Green



View the *Whiteman Warrior* online by logging onto www.whiteman.af.mil

In case of a crisis: Team Whiteman holds MARE



Members of Team Whiteman work together to aid a simulated aircraft accident victim during a major accident response exercise (MARE), at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., June 8, 2016. During a MARE all simulated medical injuries and victims are treated as real by firefighters and medical Airmen adding the importance of urgency to the training.



Firefighters from the 509th Civil Engineer Squadron move their fire engine into position to extinguish a simulated aircraft fire during a major accident response exercise (MARE) at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., June 8, 2016. Firefighters and other emergency response personnel conducted the MARE to prepare for any mishaps that may occur in real-world situations.



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Katelyn Potts, an aerospace medical technician assigned to the 509th Medical Operations Squadron, applies medical aid to a simulated aircraft accident victim during a major accident response exercise (MARE) at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., June 8, 2016. Firefighters and other emergency response personnel conducted the MARE to prepare for any mishaps that may occur in real-world situations.



A firefighter from the 509th Civil Engineer Squadron makes adjustments to his gear prior to engaging with a simulated aircraft fire during a major accident response exercise (MARE) at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., June 8, 2016. The exercise is conducted to test readiness and response times in case of a major accident.



A trainer aircraft is engulfed by a controlled burn prior to firefighters arriving to extinguish the flames of the simulated aircraft fires during a major accident response exercise (MARE) at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., June 8, 2016. Firefighters have a predetermined time to react to the initial call of emergencies.



Firefighters from the 509th Civil Engineer Squadron work to extinguish flames from a simulated aircraft fire during a major accident response exercise (MARE) at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., June 8, 2016. Firefighters have a predetermined time to react to the initial call of emergencies.



A firefighter from the 509th Civil Engineer Squadron escorts a simulated wounded Airman from a simulated crash site during a major accident response exercise (MARE) at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., June 8, 2016. During a MARE all simulated medical injuries and victims are treated as real by firefighters and medical Airmen adding the importance of urgency to the training.

U.S. Air Force photos/Senior Airman Jovan Banks

***Uphold the
legacy of***

**E
X
C
E
L
L
E
N
C
E**

Charlie Fire Team Remembrance



Courtesy graphics

By Tech. Sgt. Clarissa Pruisman
509th Security Forces Squadron

Any day of the week you might drive past a memorial of six Airmen who sacrificed it all and not even realize it. Located on Arnold Avenue, near the 72nd Test and Evaluation Squadron building, stands a static display of a Bell UH-1F Iroquois helicopter.

On June 11, 1982, while conducting a routine off-base operation, a Bell UH-1F Iroquois encountered a mechanical malfunction that caused it to crash 30 miles south of Kansas City, Mo., between Passiac and Amsterdam. All six Airmen on board lost their lives.

At the time, the UH-1F was one of four assigned to Detachment 9 of the 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron (ARRS) responsible for monitoring 50 of the Whiteman Air Force Base area missile silos.

The crew that day consisted of the two pilots, Capt. Richard Conrardy and 2nd Lt. James Hebert from the 37th ARRS, and four security policemen, known as the Charlie Fire Team, from the 352nd

Missile Security Squadron, Staff Sgt. Richard Bohling, Sgt. Thomas Meredith, Senior Airman Marion Pace and Senior Airman David Jones.

On June 11, 1984, Whiteman dedicated a static display of the Bell UH-1F Iroquois to these fallen men and named it Peace Memorial Park to ensure their legacy was not forgotten. In addition to this park, the security forces of the 21st Century carry on their legacy throughout Air Force Global Strike Command.

Every year defenders from each wing in the command travel to the Global Strike Challenge to compete for the coveted Charlie Fire Team Award. The award recognizes the security forces team with the best overall performance at the competition.

On Saturday, June 11, 2016, at 10 a.m. the 509th Security Forces Squadron is scheduled to hold a memorial ceremony in honor of these Airmen at Peace Memorial Park located off Arnold Avenue to ensure their legacy is not forgotten and so our next generation of Airmen can see the sacrifices others have made. The event is open to everyone.



AF defers promotion, re-enlistment ineligibility policy tied to enlisted distance learning completion

By Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- The Air Force has deferred the effective date for promotion and re-enlistment eligibility associated with the Air Force policy to complete enlisted professional military education distance learning courses within 12 months of enrollment until Jan. 1.

The six-month deferment allows additional time to validate notification and acknowledgment procedures, as well as ensure test centers have the time and capacity to meet testing requirements.

These adjustments alleviate potential impacts to a significant number of Airmen who may fail to complete Course 14 and 15 for reasons beyond their control.

"EPME is a critical component of our professional enlisted force and our expectations have not changed," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody. "Airmen are still required to complete EPME Distance Learning in a timely manner, yet we certainly understand we need to ad-



just to ensure all Airmen are able to complete the course on time. The policy deferment is necessary for us to assist Airmen through the transition to a blended learning program that delivers higher quality education to our Airmen earlier in their careers."

Airmen who may go beyond 12 months in completing EPME DL must request a course extension through Air University, in accordance with enrollment instructions. Airmen will not be marked ineligible to reenlist and compete for promotion until the new policy effective date.

The blended learning and time-in-service model announced in December 2014 was implemented so Airmen would receive PME earlier and more frequent in their ca-

reer. Throughout the three-year transition of EPME to a blended learning model, approximately 50,000 Airmen have enrolled in the distance learning portion.

The temporary deferment of policy dictating repercussions to promotion and re-enlistment upon failure to enroll, complete and pass military education within one year of enrollment will expire Jan. 1, 2017. Airmen who enrolled in EPME on or after Jan. 1, 2016, are not affected by this deferment.

Airmen enrolled in EPME DL will be contacted directly by the Air Force Personnel Center with more information about the changes. Formal guidance will also be communicated from the headquarters manpower, personnel and services directorate to major commands, for further dissemination.

For more information about Air Force personnel programs go to the myPers website. Individuals who do not have a myPers account can request one by following the instructions on the Air Force Retirees Services website.

Distinguished honors: Historian speaks of 509th Legacy

By Master Sgt. Roger Hooker, Retired
509th Bomb Wing Historian, 1991-2000

Unknown to me at the time, my journey into the annals of the 509th Bomb Wing legacy began in mid-1991. I was leaving Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan, for my new assignment as the historian for the 351st Strategic Missile Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. I was no stranger to the base, or wing, as I'd been assigned there in the mid-1980s and was looking forward to returning. I had taken 30 days of leave enroute to Whiteman. Then one day, an official Air Force letter arrived at my leave address informing me that I was being reassigned as the historian for the new B-2 Spirit unit, the 509th at Whiteman.

Any Air Force historian worth their salt knew the history of the legendary 509th. The atomic bombs loomed large in the wing's annals, of course, but I had other



reasons for being awestruck. The recent roster of historians assigned to the wing read like a "who's who" list of the best historians in Strategic Air Command (SAC). I arrived wondering if I could ever live up to that tradition; however, the task of standing up a new wing kept me busy and distracted me from pondering my place in that lineup.

One of the first things I normally did when I arrived at a new unit was write an extensive unclassified history of that unit, and the 509th was no exception. I would learn everything from the unit's World War II past to its current operations. It was a 'quick' way to become the expert on the wing's past.

Shortly after I began my research into the 509th's storied past, I was amazed at the wing's accomplishments. There was so much more than the atomic bomb missions; The 509th also helped pioneer air refueling. The wing played a key role in 1947's infamous Roswell incident. The wing also formed the backbone of SAC when the command began flexing its muscle to protect America and its allies. The 509th was also one of 30 units to test and adopt the now-standard wing organization. The wing flew B-52 Stratofortress missions in Vietnam. The list goes on and on. At the time I was researching and writing that history, the 509th was programmed to be the first B-2 unit, which, of course, evolved into being the only B-2 unit.

I'd like to think that I made an entry into 509th history within a few short months of my assignment to Whiteman. Upon my arrival at the base, I immediately became a

member of Detachment 509, overseer of all things B-2 at Whiteman. Yet it didn't take long for the manpower folks to inform me that I'd be the only member of the 509th until the wing returned to active service, slated for 1993. They explained that someone had to be assigned to the wing; otherwise, the Air Force would have to inactivate the 509th until the time grew nearer to stand it up and then activate it again. Since I was the only person on base who was assured a permanent position in the wing when that happened, I became the only member of the wing until it stood up in 1993. In the process, this saved the Air Force from some rather extensive paperwork.

This connection between the 509th and me continued for nine years. In that time, I re-established a link to my own past when, in addition to my historian duties, I became the curator and tour guide for Whiteman's Minuteman Missile Museum, also known as Oscar-01. That connection lasted for five years when I turned the site and my other 509th responsibilities over upon my retirement after 24 years of service.

I last updated the previously-mentioned unclassified history in 1999. The words I wrote in that preface still apply to me to this day: "During my 21-year tenure as an Air Force historian, I have had the privilege of associating with numerous units bearing proud and distinguished histories. However, few of those organizations' accomplishments compare with those of the famous 509th Bomb Wing. ...the 509th has truly been a pioneer unit in every sense of the word. It was indeed an honor for me to write this history of the 509th. I only hope that I have done this proud unit justice in the following pages."

I also believe that the 509th Composite Group's World War II battle cry rings true for today's version of the wing: "There's none finer than a 509'er!"



U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Dachele Melville

A B-52H Stratofortress, 61-1021, assigned to the Air Force Reserve Command's 307th Bomb Wing, is the first B-52H bomber to be converted as part of the New START Treaty. U.S. efforts to support the treaty includes the conversion of 30 operational and 12 non-operational B-52s to a conventional only configuration across the Air Force that will be completed by early 2017.



Courtesy photo

The missile trailer located in the compound of the Oscar -01 launch control facility. Whiteman Air Force Base is the home of the world's only Intercontinental Ballistic Missile launch control facility located on a military base. From 1963 to 1995, Whiteman was home to the 351st Strategic Missile Wing, which operated the Minuteman II ICBM weapon system.

Mess Dress Giveaway

SUBMIT YOUR BEST PICTURE AND WIN A FULL MESS DRESS!
ONE COMPLETE MESS DRESS UNIFORM FOR
ONE MALE AIRMAN AND ONE FEMALE AIRMAN.
PLUS EACH WINNER WILL GET TWO TICKETS TO THE AF BALL !

THEME:

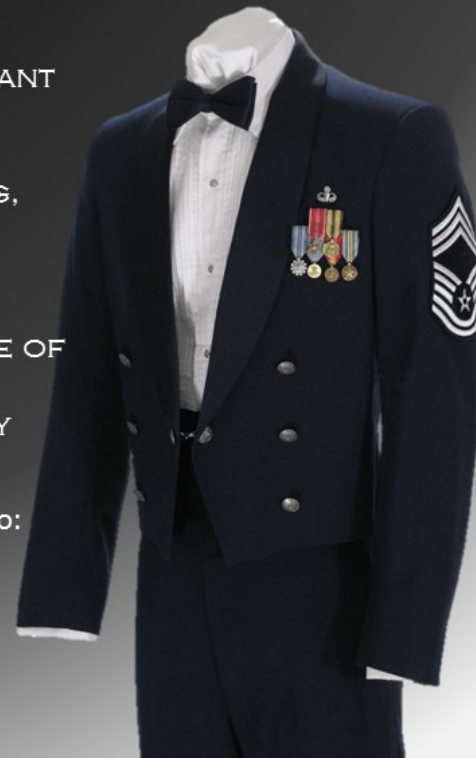
“Excellence, the True Spirit and Legacy of Whiteman AFB”

RULES:

- OPEN TO E-4 AND BELOW
- ONE ENTRY PER CONTESTANT
- SUBMISSION MUST BE AN ORIGINAL IMAGE (DRAWING, PAINTING, ETC. CREATED DIGITALLY OR BY HAND)
- MUST SUPPORT THE THEME OF THIS YEAR’S AF BALL AND INCLUDE AN EXPLANATORY ESSAY.

Submission deadline 10 Jun 2016 to:
MSgt Jeremiah Carley
MSgt Sean Morris

Sponsored by the AF Ball Committee
Funded by the Whiteman Spouses Group





services page

I can fill this
space

CLASSIFIEDS

classifieds

