

WARRIOR



ONE
MORE

REP

Weekly commander's message

Greetings, Team Whiteman!

Last week we published our updated 509th Bomb Wing Strategic Plan, which will enable us to maintain our focus on long-term priorities while continuing to tackle immediate challenges together as a team. The updated plan, which I sent out to all members of the 509th via email last week, and is available through your chain of command, is aligned with and directly supports the strategic guidance of our higher-headquarters. As you will see when you read it, the plan serves as a framework that defines the critical role we all play in providing combat capabilities to our President and Combatant Commanders around the globe. Ultimately, I expect leaders at all levels to become familiar with our updated strategic plan as you need to understand and be able to communicate where we are headed as a wing, as well as the role you play in our continued success. Always remember that we are all vital to our wing's efforts to ensure our mission is executed, our vision realized, and our priorities upheld!

One of the wing priorities discussed in our strategic plan is taking care of our Airmen. As such, this week we hosted a group called American300, whose mission is to promote "real-world resilient mindsets" with military members serving all across the globe. By creating dialogue with our teammates and by embedding in several of our squadrons, these professionals helped many of us to become better prepared to tackle the



challenges we face and to overcome some of the struggles we might be experiencing. I hope many of you were able to take advantage of this program and I hope the dialogue, as well as the willingness to vocalize problems, continues to spread!

Out on the flightline this week, our operations and maintenance teammates executed a variety of B-2 and T-38 training missions. In addition to local training flights, we conducted B-2 sorties involving the release of 500-pound unguided munitions at the Nellis Test and Training Range in Nevada, as well as the delivery of inert munitions at the Smoky Hill Range in Kansas. Additionally, we conducted very valuable integration training with F-22s and F-35s ... it was an exciting week!

Speaking of excitement, we learned this week that two of our own have

been selected for the rank of colonel, which is a rank that less than 1% of all officers who enter the Air Force attain! Congratulations, Col (sel) Justin Grieve and Col (sel) Beth Makros! We are incredibly proud to have Justin leading our 509th Operations Support Squadron and Beth faithfully served as both our Operations and Mission Support Group Deputy Commander prior to departing for a Lorenz Fellowship in D.C. ... thank you both for your continued leadership!

As we move closer to the weekend, Chief Smith and I look forward to seeing many of you at the University of Missouri Military Appreciation Game on Saturday afternoon. This will be a great opportunity to spend some quality time together as we cheer on the Tigers!

Lastly, remember that Valentine's Day is on Tuesday so be sure to do something nice for the special people in your lives! On a daily basis, our loved ones prove that you do not need to wear a uniform to serve. While they may not have raised their right hand nor swore to protect and defend the Constitution, their commitments are no less real and their contributions are no less vital ... so be sure to tell them how you feel!

Have a great, safe weekend ... and watch out for one another!

Defend...Avenge!

Nuke

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

Medical Operations Squadron: More than just primary care

By Lt. Col. Douglas Odegaard
509th Medical Operations Squadron

When our beneficiaries think of the 509th Medical Operations Squadron they think about our primary care mission; providing our patients with outstanding health care. Our squadron provides the Whiteman Air Force Base community with more than just primary health care. The Medical Operations Squadron is an eclectic mix of professionals that provides more than just family health care, specialty care clinics, dental care, and aerospace medicine. Many beneficiaries don't know about the incredible job many of our professionals do to make their day-to-day lives safer and healthier.

A little known area of our squadron is our Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight. Bioenvironmental provides many protective services to our community to include regular water vulnerability assessments that test for lead and other contaminants in the public water sources utilized on the installation. They accomplish regular Radon testing in buildings to ensure levels are safe for occupation. Other services provided are air

sampling and respiratory gas mask fit testing, noise surveillance, and x-ray radiation testing on equipment. They are also responsible for identifying, evaluating, and testing all base lasers, base static displays for radiation, and the Hazard Communication (HAZCOM) program that provides chemical awareness. Bioenvironmental also provides the installation with an emergency response team to respond to chemical spills, as well as biological and radiation accidents or threats.

The Public Health Element is charged to protect our community through oversight of base health programs and surveillance of installation facilities. Public health performs all of the food service inspections on base, to include where food is prepared, by ensuring that food is prepared in a clean environment, maintained at required temperatures, and served in a safe manner. They also perform regular food vulnerability assessments that help determine proper facility sanitation and security. Other services provided by public health include infectious disease control programs, disease surveillance and mitigation actions, animal bite control, sexually

transmitted infection prevention programs, community health and outreach programs at schools, influenza prevention campaigns, medical entomology and pest surveillance.

The Family Advocacy Program is very engaged with our military community and provides many outreach programs that are available to both active duty and dependent patients, and are intended to protect and strengthen our families. Our New Parent Support Program provides in-home assistance to expectant mothers and/or families with children from 0 to 3 years old. Other outreach programs include parenting classes, pre-marital and marital counseling, family communication counseling, stress management classes, tobacco cessation workshops, sleep hygiene support, weight loss motivation classes, and domestic abuse victim advocacy. The Mental Health Clinic also provides an alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment program that helps our beneficiaries' battle dependency issues.

The Medical Operations Squadron has many aspects to provide as healthy and safe environment for our Airmen and their families.

THE WARRIOR Editorial Staff

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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 do 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, 509th 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 Danielle Quilla

The 509th Force Support Squadron fitness center instructors pose for a group photo at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Feb. 7, 2017. The center provides Whiteman families with an average of 16 classes per week, all free, excluding the adult and youth Jiu Jitsu classes. They do this to provide a gold standard facility by offering a healthy sporting and fitness environment and creating lifelong athletes.

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 Thursday 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	Partly Sunny
Hi 65	Hi 72
Lo 31	Lo 48

Sunday	Monday
Mostly Cloudy	Sunny
Hi 50	Hi 52
Lo 42	Lo 29

American300 visits Team Whiteman



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Andrew Nichols, left, a Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) technician, speaks with Robert Powers, the founder of American300, about the EOD career field at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Feb. 6, 2017. American300 is an organization whose mission places mentors with service members serving around the world to promote "real world" resilient mindsets.



U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael Perkins, the 509th Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) NCO-in charge of operations, left, speaks to Benjamin Breckheimer, a wounded warrior retired from the U.S. Army and American300 mentor, about an upcoming EOD field training exercise at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Feb. 6, 2017.



Robert Powers, the founder of American300, takes a photo with Airmen at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Feb. 8, 2017. During Powers' visit, he shared his story about life's darkest moments and how to stay resilient during this time.



Benjamin Breckheimer, a wounded warrior retired from the U.S. Army and volunteer with the American300, hugs Sandra Williams, the 509th Bomb Wing staff community support coordinator, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Feb. 8, 2017. American300 mentors visit bases and communities throughout the year to spend time with U.S. service members around the world to share their stories and hold discussions with troops.

*U.S. Air Force photos/
Senior Airman Joel Pfister and Airman Michaela R. Slanchik*

Reel Time Theaters

We're saving a seat for you.

FRIDAY, FEB. 10 • 7 p.m.

A Monster Calls (PG-13)

Adults - \$6.25, children - \$4.00

SATURDAY, FEB. 11 • 7 p.m.

Live By Night (R)

Adults - \$6.25

SUNDAY, FEB. 12 • 7 p.m.

Sleepless (R)

Adults - \$6.25

TEAM WHITEMAN'S MISSION IS TO
EXECUTE STRATEGIC DETERRENCE, GLOBAL STRIKE
AND COMBAT SUPPORT...ANYTIME, ANYWHERE!

ENVISIONING BEING AMERICA'S PREMIER BOMB WING
TOTAL FORCE AIRMEN EXECUTING SAFE, SECURE AND
EFFECTIVE NUCLEAR AND CONVENTIONAL
AIRPOWER...COMBAT-READY TODAY, INNOVATING FOR TOMORROW!

The ER is too far

By Senior Airman Jovan Banks
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

An emergency can happen anytime, to anyone, anywhere, but not all emergencies require an Emergency Room (ER) visit. Some can be treated at a local urgent care center (UCC).

UCCs treat acute illnesses and injuries that may not be serious enough for a visit to an ER. The centers treat a wide range of conditions including: infections, allergies, skin conditions, flu, minor injuries and wounds, strep throat, and sporting injuries.

If you have unexpected symptoms that don't require an ER visit and you can't see your doctor right away, an urgent care clinic may be your best bet for getting an early diagnosis and saving the Air Force money.

"The average cost of an emergency room visit is \$501, while the average cost of an urgent care visit is \$95," said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Dianne Stroble, the chief nurse assigned to the 509th Medical Group (MDG). "The 509th MDG team wants to be your first choice and we partner with our patients to ensure your healthcare concerns are addressed."

There are about 7,100 full-service UCCs in the U.S. with four in the Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, area. The local facilities Whiteman uses are family practice facilities that are contracted with Tricare to accept patients on a walk-in basis. Other options for urgent care can be found at www.uhcmilitarywest.com.

"Emergency care is needed in the case of a medical emergency," said Stroble. "Medical emergencies are the sudden and unexpected onset of a medical condition that is threatening to life, limb, or eyesight, requires immediate medical treatment or manifests painful symptoms that requires immediate response to alleviate suffering."

UCC nurse practitioners share many of the same responsibilities as doctors, but will not treat everything that can be treated at the ER.

"Tricare PRIME dependents are pre-authorized two UCC visits without a referral," said

U.S. Air Force Col. Christine Kress, the 509th Medical Group commander. "Active duty members are not pre-authorized visits and are required to call the Nurse Advice Line for prior authorization. All active duty who report to the ER, are required to contact their PCM the next duty day."

Here are some examples of when to visit an emergency room instead of urgent care facilities:

- * Persistent chest pain, especially if accompanied by other symptoms such as radiation to arm/jaw, sweating, vomiting or shortness of breath
- * Difficulty breathing
- * Altered mental status or confusion, including suicidal thoughts
- * Deep cuts requiring stitches especially on the face, or a large open wound that won't stop bleeding
- * Head or eye injuries
- * Seizures without a previous diagnosis of epilepsy

"Healthcare issues often arise after duty hours and the local ER and UCCs provide a great service to our patients," said Kress. "I need all patients with non-emergent care needs to contact the Nurse Advice Line prior to reporting to an UCC or ER to ensure we match the right level of care to your symptoms. It is my priority to ensure our patients have access to the best available care, but during duty hours, I want you to choose us."

Urgent care is not a substitute for emergency care. In general, an emergency should be treated as such.

All Airmen and their families should know their benefits when faced with making a visit to the ER or urgent care.

For more information about finding an Urgent Care facility that accepts the type of Tricare you have, call United Healthcare at 1-877-988-WEST (9378).

During clinic hours, for non-emergent issues, please contact the 509th MDG at 660-687-2188 or send a message to your assigned provider team through MiCare. After hours, please contact the Nurse Advice Line (NAL) at 1-800-874-2274.

509th MDG CGOC Bars and Stars superior performer



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Danielle Quilla

U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Jason Pigg, a group practice manager assigned to the 509th Medical Group, receives the Company Grade Officer Council (CGOC) Bars and Stars award at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Feb. 2, 2017. Pigg balanced both the role of the group executive officer and group practice manager. He optimized the Air Force Medical Home clinics and retooled the appointment system to add 264 additional appointments for patients. Pigg also orchestrated a 509th Bomb Wing (BW) Flag Retreat, and he was co-lead for the 509th BW's blood program, which recruited 150 donors and collected 50 pints of blood.

MO Air Guard Airman goes extra mile on and off the court

U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Allanesha Smith, an aerospace medical technician with the 131st Medical Group, takes on the role of social worker to help students she works with as a school nurse for an inner-city middle school. Smith works at Northeast Middle School in Kansas City, Mo., where many students suffer from autism; some have epilepsy or diabetes, and one experienced brain cancer. To help counter the illnesses and lifestyles that the children deal with, Smith revamped the school's sports program. After the school day ends, she coaches basketball, track and volleyball. Smith was recognized by the 131st MDG as Airman of the Year twice in a row. She has improved the MDG's training program as the unit training manager and helped with the wing-wide student flight program.



U.S. Air National Guard photo/2nd Lt. Nathan Dampf

By 2nd Lt. Nathan Dampf
131st Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Allanesha Smith didn't sign up to be a social worker, but by working in a Kansas City inner-city middle school she's taken on that role to help the students she works with as a school nurse.

With her Air National Guard background and her spirit to always give 110 percent, the 131st Medical Group aerospace medical technician senior airman is well prepared to take on a greater role in these teens' lives.

"Nurse Smith is a valued part of the Northeast Middle School community," said Bryan Shaw Sr., vice principal at Northeast Middle School. "She has a commitment to the success of every student that extends beyond the assigned responsibilities she has. There would be a void in the culture of NEMS if she were not present."

The school has 900 kids. Many students suffer from autism; some have epilepsy or diabetes, and one experienced brain cancer. Another student's parents were shot and killed in his living room during a gang-related incident.

"Smith has brought a greater sense of pride to the students," said Shaw. To help counter the illnesses and lifestyles that the children deal with, Smith revamped the school's sports program. After the school day ends, she coaches basketball, track and volleyball.

"The kids here have no structure," she said. "With coaching, I have a structure. We make the kids sign a contract. There are rules and consequences. We establish goals for making it to an annual awards banquet." Those goals are athletic, as well as academic, according to Smith.

Through sports, Smith has been able to help several students. One such teen was constantly in trouble.

"We butted heads all year," she said. "He had several delinquent friends who dabbled in drug use. He cursed out his teachers and fought around school. He was in a horrible place."

Smith started him in basketball; then he switched to track, where he placed first and second in multiple events.

"He learned how to cope emotionally through running. His attitude did a 180," Smith said. "He thanked me for not giving up on him, but I was just trying to facilitate what he needed to succeed."

Before the sports program and student contracts were put in place, the school experienced a large drop-out rate. The school saw a decrease in that rate after the changes. Administrators say Smith's willingness to go the extra mile is invaluable.

"She is always dedicated to her extracurricular activities," said Shaw. "She takes the responsibility to the next level in assuring that the students are well prepared and knowledgeable of the activity."

Although her sports programs have had a clear impact, Smith extends that same dedication to students outside of sports. She was once contacted by a 13-year-old female who had not been attending school. When Smith spoke with her, she learned that the young girl had run away from home and was pregnant, after being sexually assaulted by her abusive step-father.

"She called the school and asked to speak with me," Smith said. "I got her into a shelter for pregnant teens who have been thrown out. I bought some toiletries and clothing. The shelter has health care and items in-house to allow the young teens to get the care they need and help them stay educated."

The young girl's willingness to approach Smith reveals a trait that others in the Missouri Air Guard have seen in Smith as well.

"Senior Airman Smith is down-to-earth, knowledgeable, approachable and respected," said Chief Master Sgt. Jessica Settle, 131st Bomb Wing command chief and former MDG super-

intendent. "She is an exceptional Airman. She is well-respected throughout the wing for her work ethic, professional attitude and personal integrity."

"She is an advocate for the enlisted force as well as improving programs and processes, and she is not afraid to share those ideas with leadership," Settle added.

Smith was recognized by the 131st MDG as Airman of the Year twice in a row – a first for the MDG.

Smith's wing leadership and school leadership agree that she improves things no matter where she goes. She has improved the MDG's training program as the unit training manager and helped with the wing-wide student flight program.

She has also improved student retention at Northeast. Smith has helped the school acquire free dental visits for the kids; there is now a dental clinic on site. She also reached out to a local Olympian to help coach volleyball and several of the children have benefited from free eye glasses provided through a grant that Smith helped secure.

Smith's drive and dedication to succeed in both her full-time and Guard jobs comes from a long military upbringing. Smith's dad was in the Army. They moved around a lot, but she always had structure. She wants to instill that same structure and work ethic with those she works with in school and the 131st BW, said Smith.

"I've learned a lot about structure from the Air National Guard," Smith said. "It has taught me checks and balances, actions and consequences. These kids don't have that so introducing those concepts has motivated them."

In fact, it has impacted the students so much that some of the teens she works with have even told Smith they intend to enlist.

"You live the Air Force core values, and I pride myself on that," said Smith. "The Air National Guard is in both parts of my life. It's not just a weekend for me."

Whiteman AFB Soap Box Derby



Entry Fee: \$50
Limited Edition
Coin/T-Shirt: \$25

Hotel rooms & restaurants
available on base

Activities planned after
Saturday races

Applications must be
submitted by
February 15, 2017
For applications, contact
Brent Thomas at
660-687-5712/440-823-1576
or email:
brent.thomas.1@us.af.mil



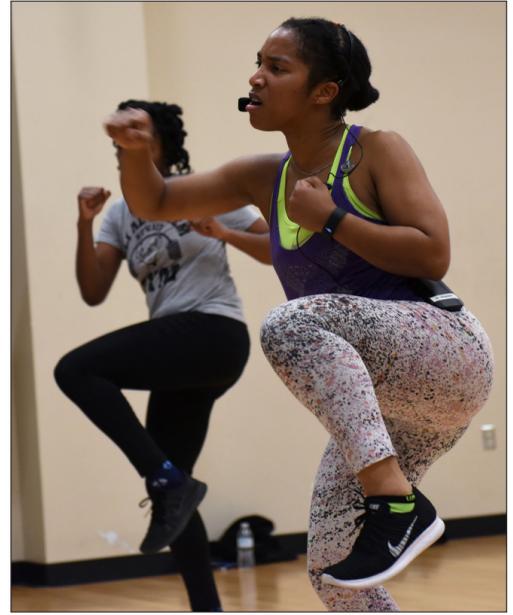
Open Track
March 10 from
5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

March 11-12, 2017

Weigh in starts at 7 a.m.

Races start at 9 a.m. sharp @ Hangar 52

Fitness 'sanctuary' for families



By Tech. Sgt. Miguel Lara
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Sanctuary is often defined as a place of worship and a place to take refuge. Fitness enthusiasts who seek a 'sanctuary' to practice their craft often find themselves in a common place of 'worship'—the fitness center.

This is true, as the fitness center at Whiteman Air Force Base (AFB), Missouri, seeks to provide a gold standard facility by offering a healthy sporting and fitness environment and creating lifelong athletes fit to defend.

Although the fitness center is 58 percent undersized for the base population, the success of the fitness center is extremely important to Team Whiteman.

"We play a large role in executing the 509th Bomb Wing commander's priority," said Angela M. Anderson, the 509th Force Support Squadron (FSS) fitness center director. "Families ... support those who sacrifice to support us."

The center provides Whiteman families a place to take refuge by offering an average of 16 classes per week, all free, excluding the adult and youth Jiu Jitsu classes.

"The gym provides classes like spin class and yoga," said U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Fredy Velasquez, a public health technician with the 509th Medical Operations Squadron. "The fitness center helps me maintain a healthy state of mind by releasing stress and transforming it into physical energy."

In addition, the fitness center is currently providing 96 Fitness Improvement Program approved classes during the month of February. Some of these classes are initiated based on customer feedback such as FitForce.

"Since August of last year we've had 296 classes with 1,325 participants in the Fit-Force class," said Anderson. "This is just one of the ways our programs enable the 509th's 96.9 percent fitness assessment pass rate."

With the 24-hour access option available, the fitness center provides Team Whiteman a place to decompress.

"I am able to have steady 45 minute to an hour workout three to five days a week

along with the sauna," said Velasquez. "It helps me relax my mind after a productive work day at the clinic to support the mission and our fellow Airmen."

According to Anderson, the facility and programs are enhanced by customer feedback. In response to the feedback, the fitness center recently launched "Ladies Night at the Bar," which is a program that helps women become more familiar with the benefits of weight training. The center plans to incorporate a bi-monthly support group in the near future.

"The feedback we received from 'Ladies Night' is that it offered an opportunity not only to be educated about the equipment, but also a support system," said Anderson. "Accountability and courage in numbers."

In conjunction with Air Force Global Strike Command's "Year of the Family" campaign--focusing efforts that greatly affect families and quality-of-life programs, the Whiteman AFB fitness center added a family element to most of the programs offered.

"This year we are executing programs through the Air Force Fit Families initiative which encourages children, teens and their families to 'Get up, Get out, and Get fit, Together,'" said U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Shonta C. Simes, the 509th FSS fitness center, fitness and sports section chief.

On June 3, 2017, the fitness center is scheduled to host the AF Youth and Teen Cohesion Challenge and Whiteman's 2nd annual Youth Triathlon in August.

"We are also in the process of lowering our age requirement from 13 to 12 years old to permit youth in cardiovascular, weight equipment and group exercise rooms, with qualified adult supervision," said Simes. "This will encourage training in preparation for participation in school sports programs."

The fitness center staff at Whiteman AFB understand their role in providing the best quality of life for those who serve and their loved ones.

"Our programs are extremely important to Team Whiteman," said Anderson. "When a customer comments that this is their 'sanctuary' we take it seriously. We see the relationships built during group sessions in the weight room, or during a class—this is the gold standard we strive for."



Hours of Operation:
Monday-Thursday 5 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Friday 5 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Holidays/AFGSC Family Days:
24/7 Access Cards Only
***Register for 24/7 access at the Front Desk!**

660-687-5496

*U.S. Air Force photos/
Tech. Sgt. Miguel Lara III and Senior Airman Danielle Quilla*



Whiteman National Prayer Breakfast 2017

THINK SAFETY



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Danielle Quilla

U.S. Air Force Col. Ronald Harvell, the command chaplain assigned to the Air Force Global Strike Command headquarters, speaks during the National Prayer Breakfast at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Feb. 3, 2017. "A sentry on the wall of prayer" was the theme of the event, which emphasized the importance of prayer in daily life. During President Donald Trump's speech at the National Prayer Breakfast held in Washington, D.C., he stated that whether it's a soldier on the night watch, or the single parent on the night shift, God will always give us solace, strength and comfort.



U.S. Air Force photo//Senior Airman Danielle Quilla

Cadets from the Knob Noster High School Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps present the colors as Cadet Perry Foster sings the National Anthem during the National Prayer Breakfast at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Feb. 3, 2017. The National Prayer Breakfast is an annual event established in 1953 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to bring people together in prayer and thanksgiving.



Weapons school officers employ total force training during Libya B-2 strike



A crew chief from Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., marshals in a B-2 Spirit stealth bomber at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Jan. 19, 2017. Two B-2 Spirit stealth bombers returned after flying an approximate 30-hour sortie in support of operations near Sirte, Libya. In conjunction with the Libyan Government of National Accord, the U.S. military conducted precision airstrikes Jan. 18, 2017, destroying two Daesh camps.

U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Joel Pfister

By Lawrence Crespo
U.S. Air Force Weapons School

Two B-2 Spirit bombers departed Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, for a transatlantic flight to Libya on Jan. 18, 2017, in what would become the B-2's first combat mission since Operation Odyssey Dawn in 2011.

The demanding 30-plus-hour mission against two Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant camps required personnel with advanced expertise in the B-2's capabilities. It also required a firm grasp of total force integration. In essence, it required graduates of the 57th Wing's U.S. Air Force Weapons School.

"There was a deliberate effort to fill all of the (B-2 strike) seats with weapons officers because of the niche skill set we train to on our (special operations force integration) ride," said Col. Michael Drowley, the weapons school commandant.

The success of the B-2 strike demonstrated the total force integration training inherent in a weapons school education. This training made the B-2 graduates of

the 325th Weapons Squadron (WPS) the natural go-to experts for the North Africa mission.

"(It is) a testament to the awesome job the 325th instructor corps does to prepare graduates to lead in combat," Drowley said.

The weapons school's 26 weapons instructor courses employ a building-block approach to produce weapons officers who are not only doctorate-level experts in a platform or specialty, but also trailblazers in total force and joint integration planning and execution.

The final month of each class consists of the weapons school integration (WSINT) phase, a series of complex missions enacted in a highly contested operational environment.

The immediate applicability of WSINT to a real-world situation was highlighted during the B-2 strike.

Prior to the Libya mission, the most recent sortie flown by "Shatter" the 13th Bomb Squadron B-2 flight lead, was the WSINT offensive counter-air mission he flew in December as a student.

"It was a very humbling experience

when my squadron commander told me that I would be flight lead for what would become the B-2's participation in Operation Odyssey Lightning," Shatter said. "The dynamic targeting and inherent integration that took place en route to Libya is not something that B-2 pilots train for on a regular basis. It was, however, very much a part of the weapons school syllabus, particularly during WSINT."

The weapons school instructors do not often have the opportunity to reap the benefits of the WSINT training so quickly.

"We're obviously extremely proud of the work our graduates did in combat," said Lt. Col. Daniel Hoadley, the 325th WPS commander. "It's especially gratifying to see one of our graduates lead this mission on his first B-2 sortie after weapons school. I would equate it to practicing football plays with your kid in the backyard for six months and then watching them score the winning touchdown on their first game!"

The true value of any integration training, however, lies in its ability to forge

weapons officers who can lead and work with diverse forces.

During the strike in Libya, for example, the B-2 personnel collaborated with multiple KC-135 Stratotanker, KC-10 Extender and MQ-9 Reaper crews to achieve the mission. The 325th WPS reflected the weapons school's "humble, approachable, credible" motto when discussing the strike.

"We recognize we are a very small piece of the big team that led to success on this mission," Hoadley said.

The weapons school plans to multiply the value of its integration training, from 2017 forward, with more syllabus opportunities earlier in the class and joint partnerships.

This expansion will ensure weapons school graduates continue to provide top-notch leadership to any mission they are called to do.

"I lost count of the number of times we did something in our formation because of a lesson learned during weapons school," Shatter said. "I can't think of any higher praise for a program than when combat feels like the training scenarios."

Snowbirds: Royal Canadian AF plans May event



Royal Canadian Air Force Captains Blake McNaughton and Paul Faulkner, center, 431st Air Demonstration Squadron pilots, attend a planning meeting for an upcoming performance in May at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Feb. 6, 2017. The Snowbirds are Canada's military air show flight demonstration team whose purpose is to "demonstrate the skill, professionalism and teamwork of Canadian Forces personnel." As one of our NATO partners, the Snowbirds plan to provide the evening's entertainment for the morale event as a precursor to the 2017 Wings Over Whiteman Air Show in June.



*U.S. Air Force photos/
Airman Michaela R. Slanchik*



Chiefs' Choice Award winner recognized



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Joel Pflester

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Kristin Cerri, center, a broadcast journalist from the 509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs (PA) office, receives a Chiefs' Choice Award at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Feb. 2, 2017. Cerri produced the video for the 2016 Whiteman AFB Annual Awards Banquet, dedicating over 30 hours to ensure the video represented the superior efforts of Whiteman's annual award nominees. She took over the creation of the nominee slideshow after another committee member had to turn over their duties due to work-related taskings. Cerri also assists with Base Community Council luncheons and attends Airman's Council meetings, ensuring the PA team is up-to-date on base events.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH FEBRUARY 2017

"SUCCESS
ALWAYS LEAVES
FOOTPRINTS."

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON



Mary McLeod Bethune Linda Brown Ruby Bridges
Lieutenant Henry O. Flipper Booker T. Washington Little Rock Nine James Meredith

- Feb. 1: **Proclamation Signing** : PDC Upstairs Foyer : 0900 HRS
- Feb. 1-7: **Negro League Baseball Museum Exhibit** : PDC Upstairs Foyer
- Feb. 10: **Poetry/Jazz Valentine's Day Celebration** : Mission's End 1900 HRS
- Feb. 17: **Black History Month Meal** : Ozark Inn DFAC: 1100-1300 HRS
- Feb. 22: **Lunch & Learn / Natural Hair** : Ford Auditorium: 1100-1300 HRS
- Feb. 23: **Capstone Event** : Mission's End : 1100 HRS

POCs: TSgt Tyrone L. Simes (FSS) 687-3445 SMSgt Raymond Capehart (BW/CP) 687-2254
MSgt Francine McRae (MDOS) 687-3881