

SPRIT



Photo by Airman Jason Burton

Like new

Airman 1st Class Christopher Munday, 509th Maintenance Squadron, scuff sands the transporter erector static display. Members of the 509th MXS plan to complete corrosion repairs and paint both trailers located at Oscar-01. They will also repair and repaint the Minuteman II missile located at Peace Park which is scheduled to be completed by Sept. 17.

Airmen to receive AEF ID cards

By 1st Lt. Sarah Small

Air and Space Expeditionary Force Center Public Affairs

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (AFP) — The Air Force chief of staff directed all major command officials to issue air and space expeditionary force identification cards before the beginning of Cycle 5 in September.

Card usage ended during the height of operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom because six to eight AEFs were deployed at the same time, said Col. Vincent Wisniewski, AEF Center vice commander here.

Reissuing the cards will link every Airman to assigned deployment windows within Cycle 5.

The information on the cards provide predictability and stability by allowing Airmen to plan around deployments to schedule leave, pro-

fessional military education and temporary duties, said Chief Master Sgt. David Mimms, superintendent for AEF matters at Air Force headquarters and deputy chief of staff for air and space operations.

The front of the card tells Airmen their assigned AEF pair, and the back shows the new 20-month cycle chart, which begins in September.

Some low density/high demand forces and stressed career fields maybe postured in several AEFs as needed for extended tours, Colonel Wisniewski said. These forces are considered "enabler" capabilities. Because of the higher operations tempo required for these forces, they may not rotate on the normal four-month schedule. The affected major command and air reserve component officials are working to determine the best way to issue cards to Airmen in

enabler billets.

Airmen who do not fall into the enabler category are assigned to one AEF during an AEF cycle, as required by Air Force Policy Document 10-4, Chief Mimms said. To add discipline to this process, a major command vice commander waiver is required to move an Airman from one AEF to another.

"One of my top priorities is to ensure the AEF culture is as clear and predictable as possible for all Airmen," said Brig. Gen. Stephen Hoog, the center's commander. "Reissuing AEF ID cards is one way we can do that."

The AEF ID card template and implementation guidance are posted on the center's secure Web site at <https://aefcenter.acc.af.mil>. The Web site can only be accessed from a dot-mil computer.

NORI Countdown: 41 days

News in Brief

Tier Two hosts NCO ceremony

Whiteman Tier 2 hosts an NCO Induction Ceremony at 3 p.m. today at Mission's End.

The event formally recognizes the transition from senior airman to NCO. For more details, call Tech. Sgt. Dave Hodges at 687-6391.



CMSU offers free admission

Central Missouri State University offers free admission to military members and their family members at the CMSU vs. Northwest Missouri State football game at 7 p.m. Saturday. For more details, call Bob Jackson at 660-543-8194.

Seminar helps new spouses

Heartlink, a program for spouses with less than five years affiliation with the military, begins at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday. Attendees will learn about the Air Force mission, customs, traditions, protocol, and support resources and services. Lunch and child monitoring is provided on-site. Reservations are required. For details, call 687-7132.

Retiree Appreciation Day scheduled

The annual Retiree Appreciation Day takes place 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Sept. 18 with activities at Mission's End and ending with a base tour.

For security reasons, attendees must have a valid military ID card or be accompanied by someone who has one. For questions, call the retiree activities office at 800-303-5608.

Virtual Assistance Training available

The family support center offers a Military Spouse Virtual Assistant training workshop Oct. 18-21 at the FSC. Classes take place 8:30-2:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday. The class size is limited to 10 and people must apply online at http://www.msvas.com/application_whiteman.htm by Oct. 4. Attendees must commit to attend each session to apply for the training slot. For more details, call 687-7132.

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Commander's Corner

By Col. Chris Miller
509th Bomb Wing Commander

Honoring our Heritage: Whiteman will honor two very important aspects of our heritage next week: *POW/MIA* day on Sept. 17; and our *Air Force's 57th birthday*, on Sept. 18.

The *POW/MIA* day remembrance will start Thursday afternoon at 4 p.m. with a 24-hour Vigil Run ending at Skelton Park Sept 17. After the run, the wing will honor those who served as prisoners of war and those who remain missing in action with a wreath presented at the flagpole in front of 509th Bomb Wing Headquarters.

Since the AF Birthday falls on Saturday, there will be a "birthday party" Sept. 17 at 5 p.m. at the Mission's End. These two events recall the founding of the greatest Air Force in the world, and the great sacrifices made by Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and their families in defense of our freedoms. All are invited to attend and help honor the heritage and the people who make us who we are today.

Air Expeditionary Force: Our Chief of Staff has made it clear that every Airman is expeditionary, every Airman must know his

or her role in the AEF system, and every Airman must be prepared to support Combatant Commanders, whether deployed, from CONUS via reachback, or employed at home station.

As of this September, the baseline deployment will be 120 days instead of 90, and the AEF cycle has changed from fifteen months to twenty months. The intent of the AEF system is that each Airman will deploy only once during each cycle, although some of the more stressed specialties will deploy longer or more often. In principle, if you wear an Air Force uniform, you are part of the AEF, and each major command is tasked with expanding the pool of trained, ready-to-deploy Airmen. Here at Whiteman, we play an integral part in the AEF as individual Airmen and as a wing, supplying combat airpower when needed.

Next Week's Exercise: We'll soon begin our last practice before the NORI in October, so take this opportunity to fine tune your "go to war" capabilities. It will be a tough exercise, but I am confident you'll make it look easy — remember, attention to detail is the key to success. Think security, safety, mission — communicate to get the job done — see you out



File photo

This year's *POW/MIA* vigil run begins Thursday and wraps up Sept. 17 at Skelton Park. See Page 3 for more details.

there!
Super Safety News: Congratulations to everyone for making safety a priority over the whole summer! We lost no Airman or family member to a preventable mishap

during the "101 critical days", and that reflects well on your commitment to taking care of yourselves and others. So, pat yourself on the back (but do it safely), and keep your emphasis on safety, 24/7/365.

Attitude ... looking through a child's eyes

By Capt. Danielle Taylor
509th Services Squadron Commander

I used to hate mornings. I was one of those people who would hit the snooze button a half a dozen times, pull the covers over my head and wait until the last possible second before griping and groaning as I pull myself out of bed.

I can tell you the very first morning that changed. It was the first morning my son didn't sleep in his crib — he woke me up that morning and no one quite greets the day like a toddler. Toddlers are so excited to begin the adventure of a new day.

My son greets me with a huge grin, a lot of giggling and a speech about something I can't yet decipher, but if I had to guess it would be something along the lines of, "Wow it's a new day. I can't wait to try new things and go outside. Mom, get up, there isn't a moment to spare."

I can't help but get caught up in his enthusiasm for the day and I find myself smiling and laughing with him as I get out of bed before the alarm even goes off.

How is it possible that someone who hates mornings as much as I did now finds herself looking forward to them. The answer is attitude — not mine in this case, at least not at first, but my son's. Attitude is contagious though, you can't help but get

caught up in it.
You can have that same influence on your squadron. If you greet your job, your day and the folks around you with excitement and a smile it will spread.

Every morning when you get up, you make a decision about what kind of day you're going to have. It's your choice — good or bad. You can't control the challenges you'll encounter, or the tasks you'll be given to do, but you can choose how you will react to them.

When you find yourself in a situation that isn't going your way, you choose how to handle it. You can get mad and let it ruin your whole day; or you can deal with it to the best of your ability, move forward and keep a positive attitude.

As a squadron commander, the adage that if I have a bad day, everyone in my squadron has a bad day definitely holds true. This is true for everyone, not just commanders. If the person at the gate, the person serving breakfast, or the supervisor or co-worker is having a bad day it affects everyone around them.

I had a boss who talked about Z3 — zip, zest and zeal. Z3 is contagious — just like my son's laughter in the morning. People with Z3 are the kind of people with the attitude everyone gravitates toward. They are energetic and fun. Everyone around



Photo by Airman Jason Burton

Capt. Danielle Taylor reads to students at the Child Development Center. She is the 509th Services Squadron commander.

these people feeds off of their zip, zest and zeal. You can choose to have Z3.

I don't miss the days of hitting snooze and dreading the morning. I love that my son's attitude is contagious. I start my day with a

smile and excitement for what it may hold. I choose to have a good day. Wouldn't you rather look at a new day through the eyes of a child with Z3 and a bubbling attitude? You can, you just have to choose to do so.

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The deadline for article submissions to the *Whiteman Spirit* 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. Submission doesn't guarantee publication.

For more information, call the *Whiteman Spirit* office at 687-6133, fax us at 687-7948, e-mail: whiteman.spirit@whiteman.AF.mil or write to us at:
509th BW/PA, 509 Spirit Blvd. Ste. 111
Whiteman AFB, Mo. 65305



Tricare officials offer contract transition tips

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Some beneficiaries of the military's Tricare health-care system may experience long wait times when calling their new regional contractors.

But the transition to new contracts "will make a strong program better and ultimately result in higher patient satisfaction," Tricare officials said.

Officials suggest conducting business online whenever possible, calling during nonpeak hours and visiting Tricare service centers for face-to-face assistance as ways to beat phone congestion during the transition.

Each regional contractor has made conducting business online easy and fast, officials said. Beneficiaries may enroll or change enrollment information online, search for providers in their local area and find information on the health plan as well as links to other key sites for information on claims processing and online appointments.

Beneficiaries still may call their regional contractor, officials said, but should understand they might experience longer wait times because of high call

volume during the transition. Officials suggest that since more people call on Mondays than any other day, beneficiaries should try to call on other days if they can. Thursdays and Fridays have the least calls, officials said, making these days the best chance for gaining quick access.

The toll-free regional contractor telephone numbers are:

- ✓ Tricare North: 877-874-2273.
- ✓ Tricare South: 800-444-5445.
- ✓ Tricare West: 888-874-9378.

Officials also stressed the importance of beneficiaries keeping their Defense Enrollment and Eligibility Reporting System information updated. Failure to keep information current may result in denials of care or pharmacy service, returned claims and undelivered updates about the transition, officials said.

To update personal information in DEERS, beneficiaries can visit the military personnel flight or call the defense manpower data center support office at 800-538-9552.

Combined Federal Campaign kicks off

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFP) — The 2004-2005 Combined Federal Campaign began Sept. 1 in the continental United States and runs through Dec. 15. Overseas, the campaign runs Oct. 1-Dec. 15.

Exact dates and campaign goals are established in each geographic area by the local federal coordinating committee and are available through the installation CFC project officers.

Last year, federal workers reached into their pockets to donate nearly \$250 million during the campaign.

The campaign was established in 1961 and is the largest workplace charity campaign in the country, according to officials at the Air Force Personnel Center here. This annual fall fund-raising drive allows

nearly 4 million federal employees to contribute to thousands of local and national nonprofit organizations.

On average, one in four federal employees or their family members will benefit from the CFC charities this year alone, according to officials.



Donors may designate which charity, or charities, receives their money by filling out a pledge card. Contributions can be in cash, check or by payroll deduction.

The CFC Web site at <http://www.opm.gov/cfc> has more information. The 509th Bomb Wing points of contact are 2nd Lt. Darice Kiefer, 509th Maintenance Squadron, and 1st Lt. Beth Robinson, 509th Operational Support Squadron. Details on Whiteman's CFC season will run in the Sept. 17 issue of the *Whiteman Spirit*.

'Retention remains superb'

Air Force cuts recruits by one third

Gen. John Jumper

Air Force Chief of Staff

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (AFP) — A decrease in recruiting rather than forced reductions is the right way to reduce manning, said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper on Aug. 30.

Throughout this process, ensuring America's Airmen know they are appreciated is a No. 1 priority, he said during a visit here.

"Retention and recruiting for the Air Force throughout this crisis over the last three years has remained superb," the general said. "Even after stop-loss was lifted, people feared that Airmen would be leaving the Air Force in great numbers, especially in the Guard and Reserve; it just didn't happen.

"And so we find ourselves in a position where we have 20,000 people more than we should have by law," he said. "I want to try and deal with it without any forced reductions in the force. I don't want anybody to be forced to leave (who) doesn't want to. The secretary of the Air Force (Dr. James Roche) and I are absolutely dedicated to making sure we don't break faith with our Airmen."

To get the manning numbers to where they should be and keep Airmen's faith, recruiting is going to be cut by about one-third for a year, General Jumper said.

"We've never tried this before, but I think it's the right thing to do" he said. "Taking that (recruiting) loss in one year (should help us) get back to the numbers we're supposed to have, and we hope that the excesses in the few previous years will help fill in those holes as far as grade opportunity."

Taking care of people and the Air Force organization as a whole is all about knowing where the critical shortages are and ensuring the right people have the right skills and are doing the right things, Gen-

eral Jumper said.

"We went for years during the '90s making cuts in people," he said. "We would cut 10 percent, and then 15 percent and then 20 percent — and then we finally ended up cutting a total of 40 percent of our force. In a lot of cases, those slots didn't go away, and people with other skills then migrated into them. You have people with essential skills (who) we need, now filling slots that should have been taken off the books and never were.

"It's a hard thing to do, and it's very traumatic, but (during) the first two years of my tenure, we got the books balanced, and we got the people out of the slots that were supposed to be emptied; we got the right people in the right slots," he said. "Only then did we really know what our critical shortages were."

But this shift in manning does not mean the Air Force is doing more with less, General Jumper said.

"We've got better budgets over the last three years than we've had in many years," he said. "We've got airplane parts, and we've got mission-capable rates in our airplanes higher than what they've been for years. Why? Because we've had money to buy the parts for the first time in years and years.

"We've had pay raises and bonuses that have continued in unprecedented levels that Congress continues to vote for us," he said. "We're not doing more with less; we are doing more with the same amount of people — particularly when you talk about trying to sustain two wars."

It all comes down to proper use of Airmen and letting them know they are valued, the general said.

General Jumper said he wants Airmen to know that "we appreciate their service, and we're going to do everything we can to keep people who want to stay in the service."

POW/MIA vigil run Thursday

The Prisoner of War and Missing in Action vigil run begins at 4 p.m. Thursday at Skelton Park and ends at 4 p.m. Sept. 17 at Bldg. 509.

Volunteers from each unit are needed to fill the time slots. Water will be provided and lights will be on during the night.

The run times and units are:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 4 p.m. | Senior leadership |
| 5 p.m. | Senior leadership |
| 6 p.m. | 509th Medical Support Squadron |
| 7 p.m. | 509th Medical Operations Squadron |
| 8 p.m. | 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron |
| 9 p.m. | 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron |
| 10 p.m. | 509th Maintenance Squadron |
| 11 p.m. | 509th Maintenance Squadron |
| Midnight | 509th Comptroller Squadron |
| 1 a.m. | Whiteman Airmen's Council |
| 2 a.m. | Whiteman Airmen's Council |
| 3 a.m. | Whiteman Top 3 |
| 4 a.m. | 509th Mission Support Group/Whiteman Airmen's Council |
| 5 a.m. | 509th Munitions Squadron |
| 6 a.m. | 509th Contracting Squadron |
| 7 a.m. | 509th CPTS |
| 8 a.m. | 72nd Test and Evaluation Squadron |
| 9 a.m. | 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron |
| 10 a.m. | 509th Mission Support Squadron |
| 11 a.m. | 509th Operations Support Squadron |
| Noon | 509th Services Squadron |
| 1 p.m. | 509th Communications Squadron |
| 2 p.m. | 509th Maintenance Operations Squadron |
| 3 p.m. | First-Term Airmen Center |
| 4 p.m. | Ceremony at the 509th Bomb Wing, Bldg. 509 |

Got news?

Call
687-6133

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Base participates in blood drive

The American Red Cross Missouri-Illinois Blood Services Region teamed with the Whiteman Officers' Spouses' Club for a blood drive noon-6 p.m. Thursday and Sept. 17 at the community center. The goal is to collect at least 80 units each day.

Complimentary WAFB "Blood Tour" black T-shirts will be given to donors and Papa John's will donate pizza.

Potential donors should weigh at least 110 pounds, be 17 years old and in good health. Donors can give blood every 56 days.

"The safety of the blood supply is a top priority, and there are many misconceptions about eligibility requirements for those who serve in the armed forces due to frequent travel outside of the United States," said Hayley Batterson, ARC Missouri-Illinois Blood Services Region donor recruitment account manager.

Some eligibility requirements affecting the military have changed, she said, and the blood drive staff will be available to discuss eligibility requirements.

Each unit of blood collected by the ARC can be used for potentially up to

three separate patients. Red blood cells are used to transfuse into patients who have had a high blood loss during an accident or a surgical procedure and to treat patients with sickle cell anemia. Platelets are generally used for cancer patients. Plasma is used to treat patients with severe burns over a large part of the body and to treat patients in shock. Plasma is also used to make medications.

"As the ARC blood supply rebounds from the Labor Day holiday, the Whiteman blood drive will help reach an adequate supply of blood as we head into the fall," she said.

"While all types of blood are needed, there is a constant demand for Type O blood because it can be transfused in any immediate, trauma situation," Ms. Batterson said.

Donors are encouraged to schedule a "Fast Pass Appointment." To schedule an appointment, visit <http://www.give life.org> and follow the donation appointment prompts. While walk-in donors are encouraged, donors who schedule an appointment will receive priority. **(Courtesy of the American Red Cross)**

Volunteers needed to help with blood drive

People 12 and older can volunteer to be a door greeter or registrar, canteen worker, donor room helper, unloader or loader anytime between noon and 6 p.m. Thursday and Sept. 17 at the community center. Blood donors are needed, too.

For more information, call Haley Batterson at 800-800-0089 ext. 2504 or clarkh@usa.redcross.org



Photo by Airman Jason Burton

Gym renovations on course

John Schmitt, a sub-contractor with Centennial Contractors, finishes the drywall around the entrance to the spinning room at the fitness center. The \$228,000 renovation includes administration areas, checkout, parent-child room and a spinning room. The fitness center remodeling project is ahead of schedule.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tia Schroeder

Hot stuff

Airman Chris Lauricella conducts a heat stress indicator test using a wet bulb globe temperature device. This test is performed hourly during the hottest days to ensure the safety of base members. The information is then relayed to the command post staff. Airman Lauricella is a bioenvironmental specialist in the 509th Medical Support Squadron.

Army Air Force
Hometown
NEWS

Did you know you can fill out a Department of Defense Form 2266, Hometown News Release, for a variety of accomplishments? For more details, call 1st Lt. Ed Gulick at 687-6122.

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Whiteman Spirit Award



Master Sgt. Bain Walling
509th Comptroller Squadron

Master Sgt. Bain Walling, 509th Comptroller Squadron, received the Whiteman Spirit Award from Col. Matthew Erichsen, 509th Bomb Wing vice commander, Tuesday.

First Lt. Allison Thigpen, 509th Operations Group, nominated Sergeant Walling for this award for ensuring she had entitlements while deployed.

While Lieutenant Thigpen was deployed to Uzbekistan, her entitlements were not started once she got there. After six weeks with no entitlements, she e-mailed Sergeant Walling hoping he could help and two other Whiteman members who are deployed with Lieutenant Thigpen.

"He immediately updated our entitlements and kept us updated on the status until he confirmed that our pay had been processed," she said in an e-mail from her deployed location.

Sergeant Walling tracked down copies of the orders and came in on a Saturday to verify the entitlements had started.

He contacted Tech. Sgt. William Pauley, a 509th CPTS member deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, to see if he had contact information for Al Udeid's finance office to take care of the other 200 plus members whose pay had not been started, Lieutenant Thigpen said.

"He worked with Sergeant Pauley to provide us with the information we needed to resolve the pay problem for those personnel," she said.

"Sergeant Walling went above and beyond to take care of deployed Team Whiteman members," she said. "During a deployment, the last thing a member wants to worry about is pay issues. It's nice to know we have professionals like Sergeant Walling back at Whiteman taking care of us. His willingness to ensure the deployed members' pay was taken care of proves he is well deserving of the Whiteman Spirit Award."

Personally Speaking

Duty Title: Deputy Disbursing Officer

Time on station: 3 years

Time in service: 20 years

Hometown: Fitzwilliam, N.H.

Children: Kelsey, 9, and Kendall, 7.

Hobbies: Going to work, working out at the fitness center, and playing and watching sports. I can't play most of them anymore, so I usually end up watching.

Goals: To make sure my kids live a happy and prosperous life and to try to break the 9-minute barrier for the mile-and-a-half run again.

Best thing about Whiteman: The solitude and to have trees, green grass and rolling hills. I didn't have that at the last place I lived.

Pet Peeves: Tardiness and nonproductive meetings.

What motivates your winning spirit? My greatest fear is the fear of failure; I also enjoy watching the reaction of people when we solve a problem.

If you could change one thing about Whiteman, what would it be? Now that Taco Bell is in place, all is well. However, I would like to see the base pool bring back the diving board.

Submitting a Whiteman Spirit Award

Individuals are nominated from within their units or by customers impressed by the individual making Whiteman a better place to live and work by going far beyond his or her assigned duties to "make it happen."

If you know someone who has the Whiteman Spirit, send the nomination to the 509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 509, Suite 111, or e-mail whiteman.spirit@whiteman.AF.mil.

Sortie board



Monthly

B-2
Goal 276.2
Flown 119.4

A-10
333.0
75.7

T-38
428.0
517.0



Fiscal year

B-2
Goal 6497.8
Flown 6342.0

A-10
4270.0
4012.7

T-38
4200.00
4017.1



Information current as of Wednesday

Information is provided by the 509th Operations Support Squadron and 303rd Fighter Squadron scheduling and documentation offices.



America's Air Force –
No one comes close



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509er trades blue for green

By Stacie Shain and Gary Bloomfield

Kansas City Army Recruiting Public Affairs

For Senior Airman Louis Umensetter, the Army's Blue to Green Program was the golden opportunity he'd been looking for.

Through the program, which allows Air Force and Navy service members to enlist in the Army, Airman Umensetter will keep his information systems operator/analyst job but will move from Whiteman Air Force Base to Fort Bliss, Texas, to be stationed with his wife, Army Spec. Amanda Umensetter. They've seen each other only three times since March, when she came back from Camp Humphreys, South Korea. The two met there when he served in an Air Force tactical unit at the Army post.

Airman Umensetter moved to Whiteman in May as a member of the 509th Communications Squadron.

"This is going to be fun. I am really looking forward to it. I will get a chance to work in the field more in the Army, and I love doing that," he said. "Plus, everyone asks how married life is treating me, and I tell them I wouldn't know. We really haven't spent much time together."

Specialist Umensetter echoed her husband's comments. "I can't even explain how well this is working out. I'm a little nervous because we haven't really lived together, but I am excited to do everything with him," she said. "I can't wait to have little arguments, go grocery shopping, and do the whole married thing. And I really think he is going to enjoy being in the Army."

Ironically, as the Army ramps up to handle a variety of contingencies worldwide, the Air Force and Navy are cutting back, primarily because advances in weaponry, ships and aircraft have reduced the number of service members required to maintain the force without compromising the missions. In some cases, Airmen and Sailors aren't being allowed to re-enlist. Those close to the 20-year mark are being offered early retirement.

The Air Force and Navy are projected to reduce their active duty strength – Air Force by 22,500 and the Navy by 7,900, officers and enlisted – by the end of fiscal 2005. Of that number, the Army is projected to receive 1,800, under the Blue to Green Program, said Doug Smith, U.S. Army Recruiting Command spokesman.

Umensetter volunteered to separate from the Air Force, and those requests are handled on a case-by-case basis. Air Force officials won't approve every volunteer request.

"We've had the Air Force refuse to release some Airmen who would be great potential Soldiers," said Army Sgt. Eugene Cemper of the Warrensburg, Mo., Recruiting Station, which handled Airman Umensetter's recruitment processes.

"Because the program is so new and both the Army and Air Force are trying to work out all the details, we have to work each recruit differently. Sometimes it happens quickly. (Airman) Umensetter completed the process in less than two weeks. Other times, it takes longer. The program isn't as simple as it will be in a few months when we get things ironed out," Sergeant

Cemper said.

Airman Umensetter was pleasantly surprised at how well the process worked for him.

"I really thought it might be iffy, but I got approval on Aug. 4 from my commander. By the 16th, all the paperwork was completed, and I had the job I want in the location I want. The Army has been amazing," he said.

The Warrensburg Army recruiters expect several referrals once Airman Umensetter completes the Warrior Transition Course at Fort Knox, Ky.

"There are a lot of reasons why people join the Air Force and not the Army in the first place," said Army Sgt. 1st Class Gerald Folk. "One reason is the Army has more strenuous exercise programs and a

tougher basic training. (Airman) Umensetter's friends will want to see how (he's) treated. They expect the transition not to be as smooth since this is the Army."

Airman Umensetter agrees.

"Once I leave Whiteman, go to training, go to Fort Bliss and have the job I want, all of my friends are going to want to hear about it," he said. "Training is a big stopper. They all think they're going to go to training and get yelled at all the time. I know the Army is not dealing with basic trainees with us. I'm going to be treated as a specialist



Courtesy Photo

Senior Airman Louis Umensetter gives fingerprint impressions at the Military Entrance Processing Center in Kansas City, Mo.

going to class."

The Army's best two selling points, said Sergeant Cemper, are the guaranteed job and the guaranteed duty location.

Sergeant Folk said the station gets approximately five calls or walk-ins each week, and he expects that number to increase significantly now that the Army has signed Airmen from Whiteman AFB.

"We weren't sure this was going to be approved," Airman Umensetter said. "I was volunteering so there were no guarantees. But within 48 hours, we had an answer back from the Army."

Airman Umensetter zipped through the process, completing paperwork by Aug. 16, the same day his wife began making arrangements for family housing at Fort Bliss. He separates from the Air Force through an honorable discharge Sept. 28 and re-enlists in the Army the following day. After four weeks in the Warrior Transition Course, he'll report to Fort Bliss Nov. 1.

During the four-week course, Airman Umensetter will learn basic Soldier skills, including rifle marksmanship and bayonet drills, hand-to-hand combat, map reading and land navigation, physical training, drill and ceremony, and how to fire and maintain various weapons including the Squad Automatic Weapon, M-203, AT4 shoulder-fired rocket, hand grenades and Claymore mines.

He will also have classes on Army unit organizations, ranks, wearing of the uniform, career progression and Army values.

Specialist Umensetter said she looks forward to finally seeing her husband on a daily basis. "I've already told my (command officers) he'll be here on Nov. 1, and I've told everyone to leave me alone. I'm taking my permissive TDY so we can set up a house and get organized."

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Photo by Melissa Klinkner

Tech. Sgt. Dana Thorsen, 394th Combat Training Squadron, maintains accurate flight crew data for use by his squadron's senior decision makers.

Love comes cheaper by the dozen



By Melissa Klinkner
Public Affairs

With support from his 13-member family, Tech. Sgt. Dana Thorsen has faithfully served his community and nation here for the past three years.

At 21, after completing his associate's degree, Sergeant Thorsen began looking for jobs in management, but didn't have the experience required. After talking with his two brothers, who had enlisted in the military, Sergeant Thorsen decided to join the Air Force to gain experience and further his education — all while serving his country.

"I had no idea I'd be sitting here 18 years later, enjoying my job as much as I do," he said. "This is a good way of life — you can work with a group of people you respect and have the opportunity to earn the respect of others."

As 394th Combat Training Squadron avionics resource management NCO in charge, Sergeant Thorsen contributes to the overall mission and the B-2 by directly assisting the pilots.

"We keep track of all their currencies so the pilots are current to do their job during war time. I help keep them prepared," he said. "I'm proud to contribute to this mission. It makes me feel good to know we've helped other countries to liberate themselves and have freedoms they might not have had in other regimes."

As children, many think of the military as nothing more than killing "bad guys" and blowing things up, Sergeant Thorsen said. "As one grows older or gets into the military, they realize there's something more than that — it's trying to keep the peace and not just protecting our own country, but protecting and helping other people and countries."

This attitude of helping others and standing up for things that are right is what Sergeant Thorsen tries to instill in his children — all 12.

Sergeant Thorsen and his wife said they always knew they wanted to have a least four kids. However, after a difficult birth with their second child, Tracey Thorsen was fearful to have more children due to

health problems.

The Thorsens began volunteering their time as weekend sponsors for a church-run group home. They were excited when they received an opportunity to live in a cottage at the establishment as temporary house-parents to 11 children.

Due to Sergeant Thorsen's military career, he and his wife couldn't continue living at the group home. However, they came to the realization they wanted to do something more — something they could have more control over. One of the home's psychologists pointed the couple in the direction of foster care.

Sergeant Thorsen and his wife have had approximately 50 foster children come through their home within the past 11 years.

Master Sgt. Larry Craven, 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, said, "Sergeant Thorsen has never made any distinction between his children, biological or otherwise. He spends as much time as he can with them and I feel he is raising well-mannered children in a loving environment."

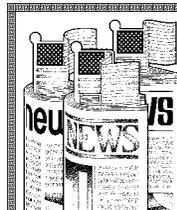
Currently, the Thorsens have four foster children, six adopted and two children of their own. The Thorsen children range in age from 18 months to 17 years old, making for a never-dull atmosphere at their six-acre home.

Rescued animals, goats, pigs and a cow named Sirloin keep the family busy. "We do almost everything as a family," said Sergeant Thorsen. "We're very family oriented." In all they do, Sergeant and Mrs. Thorsen try to instill in their children the importance of family and taking care of one another.

From eating dinners as a family to everyone pitching in to repair a fence, the kids learn the value of supporting one another and always doing their best.

"Sergeant Thorsen not only practices the Air Force core values in his daily work, but takes them home to teach to his children," said Tech. Sgt. Mike Sewell, 393rd Bomb Squadron.

Sergeant Craven said, "Sergeant Thorsen is a dependable, hardworking, caring, trustworthy, compassionate person who is being all he can be. He's a model representative for the Air Force in every action and we at Whiteman should be proud that he is here."



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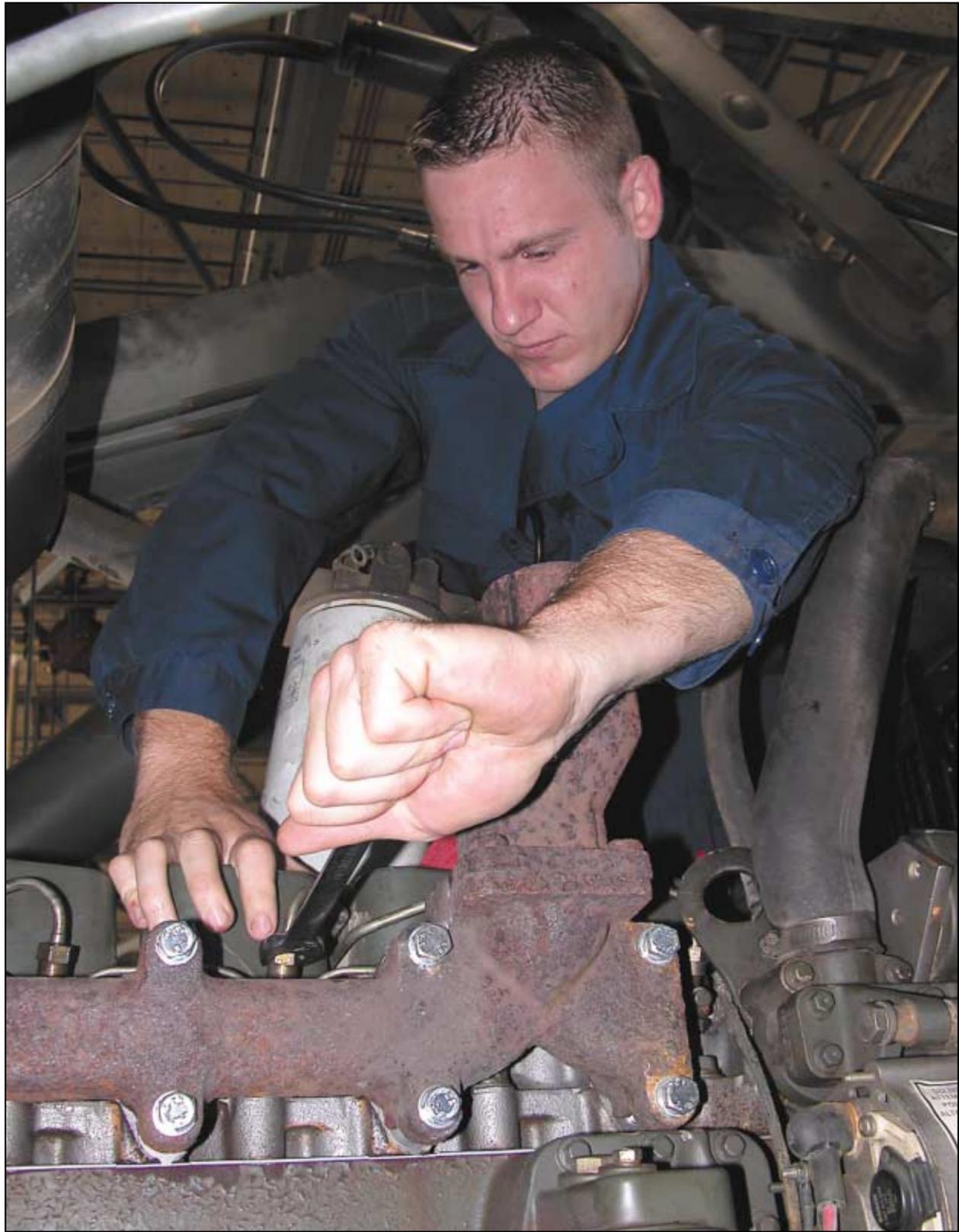
Maintainers fine-tune aging fleet



Senior Airman Jesus Razo-Martinez, 509th LRS, inspects a pickup truck. "Even if nothing is wrong with the vehicle, we inspect it annually. If we find anything wrong with it, we can correct it before there is a major problem," he said. Inspections are part of the routine maintenance performed by flight members.



Airman 1st Class Mike Smith, 509th LRS, repairs a broken flex plate and pump on a truck transmission. Vehicle maintenance flight members provide the main core of augmentation support to the base deployment operations.



Airman 1st Class Josh Morrison, loosens a bolt to bleed the fuel line on a backhoe tractor. Airman Morrison is a member of 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron Vehicle Maintenance Flight. The tractor had a blown head gasket that needed to be replaced. The 509th LRS Vehicle Maintenance Flight consists of 76 maintainers. They are responsible for maintaining 635 vehicles, and have a current in-commission rate of 90.4 percent.



Airman 1st Class Rick Fairweather, 509th LRS, repairs the rear drum brake on a van. Routine maintenance helps keep replacement-eligible vehicles up and running.



Senior Airman Bradley Kecker, 509th LRS, grinds a rusted section of a telephone maintenance truck with a die grinder. The vehicle maintenance flight has many late model vehicles still operational like a 1980 5-ton van used by the fire department during hazardous material operations. A piece of equipment from 1959 is also used to calibrate meters on fuel trucks.

Photos by Airman Jason Burton

Chapel Corner

Catholic

Eucharistic Service — 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays through Fridays;
5 p.m. Saturdays; 10:45 a.m. Sundays

Confessions — After mass and upon request

Mass — 5 p.m. Saturdays; 10:45 a.m. Sundays; and 11:30 a.m.
Wednesdays and Fridays

CCD — 9 a.m. Sundays at the base education and training center

Protestant

General worship — 9 a.m. Sundays

Gospel — 12:45 p.m. Sundays

Liturgical — 8 a.m. Sundays

Sunday School — 10:45 a.m. Sundays

Additional worship opportunities are offered through various lay councils, organizations and activities. For more information, call 687-3652.



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Call the 509th Security Forces Squadron at 687-3700 or Detachment 207, Air Force Office of Special Investigations at 687-1852.

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Community

Top 3 meets Thursday

The Whiteman Top 3 meets at 3 p.m. Thursday at Mission's End. For more details, call Master Sgt. Steve Poole at 687-4461.

WOSC meets Thursday

The Whiteman Officers' Spouses' Club meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at Mission's End. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet and welcome Paula Erichsen, the WOSC honorary vice president. To R.S.V.P., call Michelle Hunt at 563-4858 by noon Monday.

AWANA hosts open house

AWANA hosts an open house 5-7 p.m. Sunday at the chapel annex. Participants will play games and review books. Snacks and door prizes will be available. For more details, call Lisa Brandau at 563-5975.

ALS schedules events

✓ Airman leadership school class 04-G's reveille ceremony begins at 7:30 a.m. Sept. 24 at the ALS drill pad. Participants must be in place by 7:25 a.m.

✓ The ALS Class 04-G graduation begins with a social hour at 5:30 p.m. Sept. 24 at Mission's End. The speaker is Chief Master Sgt. Charles Collins, 53rd Wing command chief master sergeant at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. The meal is sirloin steak, roasted new potatoes, chef's vegetables and chocolate cake. The cost is \$15.95 for members and \$17.95 for nonmembers. The uniform is mess dress or semi-formal for military, and coat and tie for civilians. Tickets are available from class members.

Family Support

Call 687-7132 for more details on these events or other family support center activities. Events take place at the FSC.

Pre-separation briefing set

A pre-separation briefing for people separating from the military begins at 9 a.m. Monday. Representatives from the military personnel flight, family support center, Reserves and finance will provide information. The MPF separations and retirements office schedules members for this briefing. For more details, call 687-1500.

FSC offers financial refresher

A financial briefing for senior airmen and below not attending the First-Term Airmen Center begins at 1 p.m. Tuesday. Reservations are required.

WIC representative visits base

A WIC representative is available beginning at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday. WIC includes nutrition education, health promotion and a supplemental food program to help women, infants and children who have nutritional needs. For more details, call the WIC office in Warrensburg at 660-747-2012.

Menus

Knob Noster Elementary School

Monday: Egg roll, vegetables, pineapple and cookie
Tuesday: Ham and beans, cornbread, grapes and jello
Wednesday: Meatballs, mashed potatoes, peas, fruit and roll
Thursday: Corn dog, baked beans, fruit and brownie
Sept. 17: Cheese pizza, corn, salad and apple

Whiteman Elementary School

Monday: Chicken and rice casserole, salad, fruit and brownie
Tuesday: Hamburger, french fries, peas and carrots, and cake
Wednesday: Oven fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, carrots, fruit and roll
Thursday: Chili, broccoli, salad and pudding
Sept. 17: Taco, corn, fruit and cookie

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Photo by Airman Jason Burton

End zone bound

Mike Harris, halfback for the 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron team, hustles down field toward the end zone. 509th AMXS ultimately won the intramural flag football season's first scrimmage with a 37-14 score against the 509th Civil Engineer Squadron. Regular season play begins later this month.



Photo by Airman Jason Burton

10-pin party

Stu Campbell, 509th Operations Support Squadron team, bowls a strike during warmups the first night of the Whiteman Intramural Bowling League Wednesday. The 16-team league meets at 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays and ends in the the first quarter of 2005.

Sports shorts

Wrestling club meets

The wrestling club meets at 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays in the fitness center. For more details, call Brandon Denmon at 687-7456 or e-mail him at brandon.denmon@whiteman.af.mil.

Bowling leagues rolling

Newest intramural bowling leagues have begun. However, more bowlers are still needed. For more details, call Stars & Strikes at 687-5114.

Softball strikes new champs

Team Alpha, 509th Security Forces Squadron, won the extramural softball league championship Tuesday at field one by the fitness center.

Team Alpha scored a 7-5 victory over the Chiefs.

Alpha, who had an 8-4 record for the season, was undefeated in the championship tournament.

The Chiefs had a 7-3 record for the season and was 3-1 for the tournament.



Photo by Airman Jason Burton

Score!

Joe Mersky, 10, kicks a goal during practice. The Whiteman Gladiators consist of fifth and sixth graders. The season's first game is scheduled for Sept. 25 at Warrensburg soccer complex. Joe is the son of Staff Sgt. Steven Mersky, 72nd Test and Evaluation Squadron.



Your Health and Wellness Center offers a variety of programs to enhance your well-being, maintain your health and avoid disease risk.

Call 687-7662



SERVICES



Services page editor.....Stacey Schindler
509th Services Squadron.....687-4386
*No federal endorsement of mentioned sponsors intended.

Sports & Recreation

Enduring Freedom run, walk & roll

A 5k walk/run begins at 9 a.m. Sept. 25 at Skelton Park and the first 50 people get a T-shirt. The event is sponsored by the community and fitness centers "in remembrance of all the people who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001." A bed race begins at 10:30 a.m. Trophies will be awarded to first-, second- and third-place bed race winners. Refreshments will be provided. Call the community center or fitness center for more details and to sign up by Sept. 22 for this free event.

Fitness Center 687-5496

Pilates class

Pilates is back! Participate in a pilates class at 9 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the fitness center. Call the fitness center for more details and to sign up for this free class.

Step aerobics class

Enjoy a step aerobics class at 5:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays at the fitness center. Call the fitness center for more details and to sign up for this free class.

SPINNING* across America

A spinning quarterly incentive program runs through Sept. 30. Spinning classes are available at 9 a.m. or 3:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Call the fitness center for more details and to sign up. Sponsored in part by Life Fitness.*

Stars & Strikes 687-5114

Retirees day

Retirees are invited to bowl 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sept. 18. The special includes 50-cent games and 50-cent shoe rental, plus 30 percent off prices at the snack bar. Call Stars & Strikes for more details.

Airmen's night out

Senior Airmen and below are invited to bowl 8 p.m.-midnight Saturdays. The special includes \$1.25 games and \$1 shoe rental. Bring a friend and receive 25 cents off shoe rental. Call Stars & Strikes for more details.

Outdoor Recreation 687-5565

Global Volksmarch

Participate in a 10K walk/run at 9 a.m. Sept. 18 at Knob Noster State Park. Bring your lunch and socialize until 1 p.m. Call outdoor recreation to sign up by Thursday.

Rock climbing

Learn how to rock climb the 20-foot wall 9-11 a.m. Sept. 25 at outdoor recreation. Call outdoor recreation for more details and to sign up for this free class.

Travel & Leisure

Tickets & Travel 687-5643

Worlds of Fun special

Tickets & Travel offers Worlds of Fun tickets for \$20 until Oct. 31. Take advantage of this fall special and receive almost half off the regular ticket price. Fall special tickets are valid at Worlds of Fun Saturdays and Sundays. Contact Tickets & Travel for more information and to purchase a ticket.

Community Activities

Youth Center 687-5586

Hangout night

Youth can meet at the youth center for games 6-9 p.m. Sept. 11. There is a \$2 fee for members and \$3 fee for nonmembers. Call the youth center for more details and to sign up.

Skate day

Kindergarteners through seventh graders can bring their rollerblades, skates or scooters and enjoy skating to music 3-5 p.m. Sept. 18. Call the youth center for more details, sign up begins Monday for this free event.

Picnic in the park

Kindergarteners through seventh graders can meet at the Shelter House park, across the street from security forces, for activities and a picnic 6-9 p.m. Sept. 18. There is a \$6 fee for members and \$7.50 fee for nonmembers. Call the youth center for more details; sign up begins Monday.

Super hero night

Kindergarteners through fourth graders can wear their favorite super hero shirt and play games for super hero prizes 6:30-9:30 p.m. Sept. 24. There is a \$5 fee for members and \$6.50 fee for nonmembers. Call the youth center for more details, sign up begins Monday.

Open Recreation

Fourth through seventh graders can enjoy games and get help on their homework 3:15-5 p.m. weekdays, except federal holidays, beginning Tuesday at the teen center. This after-school program is free for members and \$1 for nonmembers. Call the youth center for more details.

Family Child Care 687-5590/1180

Extended duty care

Register now for the extended duty care program. It is available to help parents meet child care requirements for extra duty hours and child care emergencies. Care is provided in a contracted, licensed family child care home to augment regular care arrangements. An application must be completed before participation.

Veterinary Clinic 687-2667

Your dog is at risk of heartworms or parasites

Keep your dog on a heartworm preventative such as Heartgard* or Interceptor*, to reduce the chances of them contracting heartworms and intestinal parasites. Have a heartworm test and fecal exam done yearly. Call or stop by the vet clinic to check out the line of preventatives.

Skills Development Center 687-5691

Machine embroidery

Take a machine embroidery class 6-9 p.m. Thursday at the skills development center. The \$15 fee includes instruction and supplies; bring your own sewing machine. Call the skills development center for more details and to sign up by Wednesday.

Framing class

Take a beginners framing class 9 a.m.-noon Sept. 18 at the skills development center. The \$40 fee includes supplies. Call the skills development center for more details or stop by and sign up.

Child Development Center 687-5588

Openings for full-time care

The child development center has care available for children 3 to 5 years old in need of full-time care. The CDC is accredited through the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs.

Drop-in care

The child development center has drop-in care 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m. on a space-available basis. Call for more details.

Community Center 687-5617

Hop n' shop

Airmen who don't have vehicles can benefit from the short hops to Sedalia or Warrensburg to shop the mini-malls and Wal-Mart* 12:30-3:30 p.m. Sept. 18, Oct. 2 and Oct. 16. There is a \$3 fee and it's limited to 10 passengers. Call the community center for more details and to sign up.

Kids art day

Youth 8-17 can bring their own materials and create a piece of artwork for fun, prizes and awards 2-4 p.m. Sept. 18 at the community center. Light refreshments and popcorn will be provided. Call the community center for more details about this free event.

Teen Center 687-5819

Power hour

Teens can do homework, research and use the computer lab 3:30-4:30 p.m. Tuesdays-Thursdays at the teen center throughout the school year. Enter a drawing for a free boom box. Call the teen center for more details.

Movie night

Teens can enjoy a movie with their friends 8-10 p.m. Sept. 17 at the teen center. Popcorn is provided at this free event. Call the teen center for more details.

Think you know sports?

Bring friends and test your sports knowledge with a trivia card game 5-6 p.m. Sept. 18 at the teen center. Call the teen center for more details and to sign up.

Library 687-5614

Cyber safety

Learn about Internet dangers and how to keep your family safe when surfing online 10-11 a.m. Sept. 30 at the base library. Call the base library for more details and to sign up by Sept. 29.

Food & Fun

Mission's End 687-4422

ACC \$1 Italian buffet

Members only, bring your families out for an Italian dinner 4-6 p.m. today at Mission's End. For only \$1, enjoy Italian salad, pasta and sauces, bread and dessert.

Almost Nuts Band

The Almost Nuts Band performs 7-11 p.m. today and 6-10 p.m. Saturday at Mission's End. This event is free for members and \$2 for nonmembers. Call Mission's End for more details.

NFL Sunday Ticket

Members only, the NFL Sunday Ticket begins at 11 a.m. Sunday at Mission's End. Come watch your favorite team and enjoy the food and beverages on our menu.

Whiteman Base Theater

Today and Saturday

I, Robot 7 p.m. PG-13
Starring — Will Smith & Bridget Moynahan

Sunday

Harold & Kumar go to White Castle
5:30 p.m. R
Starring — John Cho & Hal Penn

Adults \$3 Youth \$1.50
Movie recording line 687-5110.

Movies are subject to change due to availability.
For current and future movie listings log on to
<http://www.aafes.com/ems/conus/whiteman.htm>.



Photo by Tech Sgt. Phillip Fleming

Control is key

Members of the 509th Security Forces Squadron respond to a major accident response exercise Thursday. They set up an entry control point to control access to the site, which contains unexploded ordnance. SFS members are just one facet of the disaster control group which responded to the site. DCG members include fire fighter, medical, bioenvironmental, explosive ordnance disposal, public affairs, legal and others who are considered first responders.

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