



9-Line Target



Practice makes perfect

News in Brief

AF selects 16 base members for E-8

The Air Force released the senior master sergeant select list Wednesday. The Air Force selected 1,566 of 16,516 eligible, which is a 9.48 percent selection rate. In Air Combat Command, 419 were selected for an 8.83 percent selection rate and at Whiteman, 16 were selected for a 10.74 percent selection rate.

The selectees are: **Master Sgts. Scott Bachowski**, 509th Operations Support Squadron; **Luis Brito**, **Glen Cottrell**, **Ronald McAlister** and **Wilson Lieske**, 509th Maintenance Squadron; **Ray Guest** and **Steven Poole**, 509th Munitions Squadron; **Paul Olejniczak**, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron; **Patrick Rodriguez** and **John Vassallo**, 509th Bomb Wing; **Richard Jewell**, 509th Maintenance Group; **Mark Kinner** and **Robert Striegel**, 509th Security Forces Squadron; **Steven Ramage** and **Jeffrey Smoldt**, 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; and **Theodore Thomas**, 509th Communications Squadron.

509th selects BTZ winners

Three airmen first class were selected under the Senior Airman Below-the-Zone Central Base Board and 17 were selected under the large-unit BTZ board.

The base board selectees are: **Joshua Buckholtz**, 325th Bomb Squadron, **Nicole Strawhand**, 509th Medical Support Squadron, and **Anthony Clement**, 509th Communications Squadron.

The selectees in the large-unit category are: **Steven Groesz**, **Joseph Parks** and **Ruben Zamora**, 509th Maintenance Squadron; **Eric Harris** and **David Morin**, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron; **Alexandra Esselman**, **Timothy Gatherum**, **Candace Jones**, **Cory Lasseigne**, **Kenneth McCoy** and **Michael Wardingly**, 509th Security Forces Squadron; **Craig Coppenbarger** and **Pranay Singh**, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron; **Albert Smith**, 509th Operations Support Squadron; and **Elise Gotschall**, **Richard Limburg** and **Caleb Watkins**, 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

Wing tests tornado response

An exercise to test the 509th Bomb Wing's ability to respond to a tornado takes place today. To help prepare for today's exercise and tornado season, read the March 12 *Whiteman Spirit* online at <http://www.whiteman.af.mil/news>.



Maj. Bruce Bartholomew, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron, announces that management and systems flight members that they won the Air Combat Command Flight of the Year award Monday.

Only the best ... in ACC

LRS flight wins award, LRS member nabs individual honors

Story and photos
by Airman 1st Class Joe Lacdan

Public Affairs

Air Combat Command awarded the 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron with two prestigious awards.

The 509th LRS Management and Systems Flight was named the 2003 Air Combat Command Flight of the Year.

Tech. Sgt. Steven Hertig, 509th LRS, won ACC Fuels Technician of the Year.

During 2003, the management and systems flight maintained a 97.8 percent mission-capable supply rate for the B-2. The flight also worked with Northrop Grumman to develop a wholesale supply procedures for 12,000 B-2 assets.

"The leadership and dedication are the hallmarks of the 509th LRS's service to Whiteman," said Maj. Bruce Bartholomew, 509th LRS commander. "These ACC awards validate the exceptional hard work and talent that resides within the 509th LRS."

James Hill, management and systems flight chief, said the section was able to achieve its goals because of active leaders and motivated flight members.

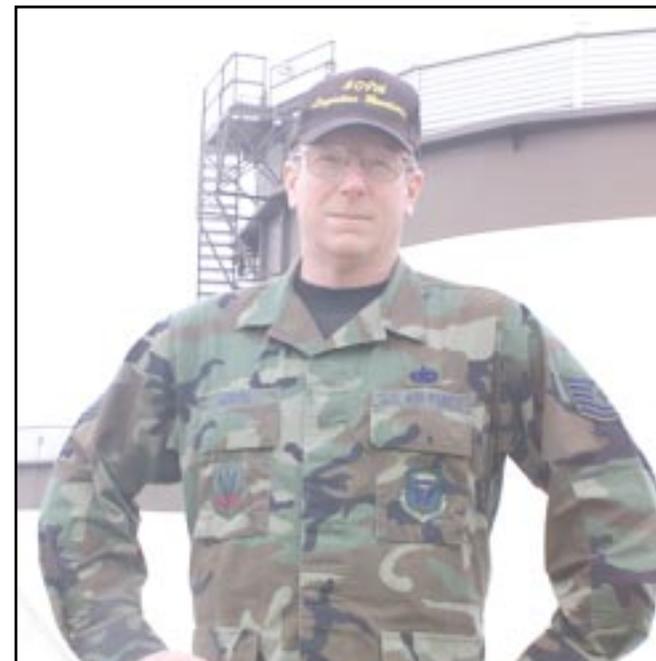
The 43-member flight is comprised of customer service, systems management, procedures and accountability and training and security elements.

It manages, inventories and maintains document control for the accountable officer account and manages the squadron's data processing systems.

"Winning the ACC Flight of the Year validates my belief that I'm part of a great team," said 2nd Lt. John Garvey. "I believe we captured this award because we have high-caliber civilians, senior NCOs, NCOs and airmen who won't settle for second best; they always strive for excellence."

Sergeant Hertig is the NCO in charge of fuels bulk storage. He receives, issues and stores jet fuel, gas and diesel products worth \$1.7 million.

"I was honored to win this award," Sergeant Hertig said. "I think all the people at Whiteman are the best in the



Tech. Sgt. Steven Hertig, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron, was named Air Combat Command Fuels Technician of the Year.

Air Force."

Sergeant Hertig managed three storage systems valued at \$2.5 million. He also directed the unloading of 11.2 million gallons of JP-8 jet fuel and 260,000 gallons of ground fuel products.

Sergeant Hertig deployed to Kyrgyzstan in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and stored 7.5 million gallons of diesel fuel used for ground operations.

"He's the best NCO in the flight," said Master Sergeant Dave Rogers. "He always gets the job done. He's a people person. He's a good supervisor. Sergeant Hertig goes the extra mile for his troops and the flight."

Commander's Corner

By Brig. Gen. Doug Raaberg
509th Bomb Wing Commander

TOP THIS ... WE HAVE 16 NEW SMSGTs! Whiteman knows how to produce senior leaders for tomorrow — it's in the numbers.

In the past two years, we've enjoyed extraordinary promotion rates to chief master sergeant exceeding not only the Air Combat Command, but also the Air Force averages. Specifically, we have been blessed with 28 and 35 percent promotion rates to chief; I attribute that directly to the chiefs and commanders who put the emphasis where it ought to be — on performance!

This week is no exception. The 509th Bomb Wing now has 16 master sergeants who've passed "through the eye of the needle" on their way to one of the toughest promotion steps to senior master sergeant.

So, how does that stack with the averages? Simply, this group represents almost an 11 percent promotion rate ... the finer number is 10.74 percent. In comparison, ACC experienced just short of 9 percent of master sergeants who were promoted and the Air Force averaged about 9.5 percent.

I'll say it again, thank you to the group and squadron leadership for having the right focus on their people and the mission. The results of this and other promotions demonstrate your commitment to being just that — the best! On behalf of all the Spirit Team, I personally want to congratulate our newest senior master sergeant selectees: Patrick Rodriguez and John Vassallo, 509th BW; Theodore Thomas, 509th Communications Squadron; Mark Kinner and Robert Striegel, 509th Security Forces Squadron; Jeffrey Smoldt and Steven Ramage, 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Paul Olejniczak, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron; Ray Guest and Steven Poole, 509th Munitions Squadron; Luis Brito, Glen Cottrell, Ronald McAlister and Wilson Lieske,



509th Maintenance Squadron; Richard Jewell, 509th Maintenance Group; and Scott Bachowski, 509th Operations Support Squadron! You may know them by some other nickname or kindred word, but you can soon tack on "Senior" before their last name.

RESPONSE IS EVERYTHING. Last week we stepped forward into our new role as a Fully Operational Capable weapon system with a Phase 1 (deployment) and Phase 2 (employment/ATSO) set of exercises. We've begun the journey to mature our future capability to go to war and even demonstrate it to the ACC Inspector General team in the future. We must sharpen our skills, improve our processes and continue the expeditionary culture we've formed over the last two years. Yet, we must be ready for the reality that we could strike, or be struck, at any time.

Unbeknownst to many, we were attacked last week — for real! Thanks to the vigilant eyes of Airman Nicholas Albright of the 509th CS Base Information Transfer Center (our post office team), Team Whiteman responded immediately to a suspicious set of letters that were actually sent to "harass" us.

It appears the envelopes contained an unknown powdery substance spilling from them that our post office folks recognized as requiring an immediate call to action to identify the substance. Without question, the swift response — our 509th SFS team cordoned off the area, the fire department provided first response and the OSI investigated the aftermath — lent to a safe, but effective denial of a potentially hazardous substance from going any further than our back door. The disaster control group performed magnificently.

However, there are two people who deserve some specific recognition ... Senior Airmen Kelly Johnson and Joyce Baum from the 509th Medical Group Bioenvironmental Engineering team. It was their on-site response that identified, sampled and confirmed the letters as not containing dangerous materials — all with the latest in technologies and procedures. It sure made me comfort-



Photo by Staff Sgt Tia Schroeder

Airman 1st Class Nathan Graczyk, 509th Maintenance Group weapons load crew member, positions the GBU-31 to be loaded onto a B-2 during the Phase 1 and 2 exercise March 7-12.

able to know we had their final OK that all was safe.

The attack was real, the perpetrator was apprehended and the base continued its mission under the watchful eye of a responsive team ... just the way we train. Thank you.

FIT TO FIGHT ... JOIN US FOR THE MX PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARDS. Next week, we have the distinct opportunity to recognize the best maintainers and logisticians in the Air Force (well, actually the wing)! Like the 509th MXG, they're always fit to fight and deserving of the awards they'll receive at the annual Maintenance Professional of the Year dinner March 26. I'm confident many of the soon-to-be winners took the B-2 to absolutely new heights, perhaps off to war ... just the way everyone does each day.

Retired Lt. Gen. Mike Zettler will join us for this tremendous evening as our guest speaker. He's no stranger to us as the former leader and advocate of our entire Air Force logistics and maintenance requirements in the Pentagon.

Oh by the way, to get ready for this event, join us for the morning warrior run out on the runway — because we're Fit to Fight!

COMACC: sexual assault impacts mission

(Editor's note: A team from Air Combat Command visited Whiteman this week as part of an Air Force effort to assess the effectiveness of programs to prevent and deal with sexual assault incidents.)

By Gen. Hal Hornburg
Air Combat Command Commander

Our people are my top priority. Everyone deserves to work in an environment where they are treated with dignity and respect. Tolerating sexual harassment fosters an environment that destroys unit cohesion and effectiveness.

Worse, sexual assault exacts a terrible cost on victims, their families, our Air Force, and our Nation. The standard is clear: sexual harassment and assault are contrary to our core values and frustrate our ability to perform our mission.

Military service requires a high level of

professional skill, a 24-hour-a-day commitment, and a willingness to give one's full measure of devotion. Common values, shared risks, and subordination of self characterize our military culture, define us as airmen, and distinguish us from other organizations.

Mission success depends on trust and understanding among unit members. Sexual assault incidents and sexual harassment erode that trust and unit cohesion.

Eliminating unprofessional and unlawful behaviors is a continuous process, one that demands vigilance and resolve at

every level. We all have a role to play. Supervisors must deal decisively with harassment issues to maintain standards of conduct. Each of us must make it a priority to educate ourselves on how to recognize and deal with inappropriate actions when they occur.



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Resources available immediately include the Unit Climate Assessment program, Wing Climate Assessment Committees, Community Action Information Boards/Integrated Delivery System, and the Air Force Victim and Witness Assistance Program. Find out what these programs are about and spread the word.

The Air Force goal is to completely eliminate sexual harassment and assault and the climate that tolerates them. We are working to ensure an environment where victims have confidence to report without fear of reprisal or shame.

We will investigate allegations wherever and whenever warranted. We will use all available tools of accountability, including criminal prosecution when appropriate. At the same time, we will address victims' health and well-being, both for the short and long term.

Finally, the Air Force has charged commanders and higher headquarters to over-

see program effectiveness. This is extremely important. I have commissioned a General Officer led team to travel to each ACC base with cross-functional experts to assess and report back to me on the climate throughout this command.

Drive, innovation, and pro-active leadership at all levels will prevent or stop unwanted behaviors before they become crimes. Educate yourself, enforce standards of decency and conduct, and do not tolerate inappropriate behavior at any level. We are airmen 24 x 7.

The Nation looks to us as its ultimate defenders and we cannot succeed in that role without positive, motivating environments. It is essential we maintain the highest standards as we carry the fight to the enemy. We must not waiver in our determination to rid our command of all sexual assault and sexual harassment. Our people and our mission are too important to do anything less.

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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:

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Response to letter highlights base capabilities



Photo by Airman 1st Class Joe Lacdan

Senior Airmen Kelly Johnson and Joyce Baum, 509th Medical Group, participate in the Phase 2 deployment exercise March 11. The airmen helped examine a substance in a suspicious letter March 12. The substance was found to be harmless.

By Maj. Don Langley
Public Affairs

Whiteman emergency response forces put new equipment to the test March 12, responding to a report of a suspicious letter at the base post office.

Though the letter turned out to be harmless, base officials took no chances.

Airman Nicholas Albright, working in the base information transfer center, noticed an envelope with questionable markings.

"Then some white powder fell out of it," said Airman Veronica Witlock, one of Albright's co-workers. Airman Chrisma Lopes, another member of the team, called for assistance.

Security forces cordoned off the immediate area around the post office and clothing sales until the substance in the letter could be identified. This task fell to the base bioenvironmental team.

Two technicians — Senior Airmen Kelly Johnson and Joyce Baum — entered the building, wearing protective gear as a precaution. They used both a handheld assay device and a newer hazardous material identification system to reveal the contents of the letter.

This was the first time the Hazmat ID Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrometer was used here in a real-world response, and one of the few, if not

only, documented cases of real world use in the Air Force, said 2nd Lt. Michael Horenziak, bioenvironmental engineer.

The new equipment allowed the team to quickly confirm the material was not hazardous.

"Once the letter was available to sample, the total time, including opening the plastic containing the letter, and taking the sample, was 40 minutes," Airman Johnson said.

"The first confirmation of a negative sample was given in about 15 minutes with the Hazmat ID, but the handheld assay takes a while longer to take a sample," she said. "About 15 to 20 minutes after the Hazmat ID reading, a negative reading for the HHA was also given."

"This was a great team effort by security forces, the fire department and bio," said Lt. Col. Leslie Martin, who led the base disaster control group response team. "The new equipment was so specific it could tell us the letter contained dairy cream ... even the brand."

He said that while the situation turned out to be non-threatening, it still provided great training for responding agencies. It also demonstrated the value of some of the Air Force's newest equipment.

"This was a great opportunity to display our capabilities and the training we've received," Airman Johnson said.

Best of the best

Weapons loaders compete for annual title

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Dee Ann Poole
Public Affairs

Members of the weapons community recently competed for Annual Weapons Load Competition of the Year bragging rights.

The teams were judged on their dress and appearance standards, composite tool kit compliance and knowledge based on a 25-question test compiled from several technical references. The teams that competed were quarterly award winners during 2003.

This year; however, only three teams were able to compete. The competitors were: Tech. Sgt. Chip Littrell, Staff Sgt. Josh Haskins, Senior Airman Will Brennan and Airman 1st Class Frank Love, 393rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Staff Sgts. Don Von Dach and Jeff Samack, and Airmen 1st Class Brian Taggart and Jo Graczyk, 325th AMU; and Staff Sgts. Derek Groeling and Justin Donley, and Airmen 1st Class Jerry Carter and Nathan Graczyk, 325th AMU.

"This competition instills pride and a sense of accomplishment as being the best weapons load crew in the wing," said Master Sgt. Rich Jewell, 509th Maintenance Group Weapons Standardization Section superintendent.

He said the quarterly and annual competitions give the wing load crews a goal to reach.

"To achieve this goal, a crew must beat out other high-caliber teams consistently throughout the quarter and year. This drives teams to spend extra time in the technical orders and preparing their CTKs," Sergeant Jewell said.

He said the competition is well received by the weapons community. Airman Graczyk agrees, saying it's an honor to compete for this award.

"It lets your supervisors and others know that you work hard and deserve to be recognized for what you do," she said. "Also, if there's a really important job to do — like loading for a visiting inspection team — your supervisor will pick the best crew and going up for load comp is a way to establish that you're the best or one of the best."

Staff Sgt. Derek Groeling said the competition allows the selected load crews to showcase their skills and let



Weapons loaders competing for the Annual Weapons Load Competition of the Year honors take a 25-question test.



Staff Sgt. Kenneth Clinton and Tech. Sgt. Rob Van De Hey, 509th Maintenance Group Weapons Standardization Section, inspect a composite tool kit during the annual Weapons Load Competition of the Year.

everyone see why they're the best. Additionally, he said the quarterly and annual competitions help give the weapons loaders a change from the norm.

"It gives us another type of evaluation to let us know if



Tech. Sgt. Cary Cook, 509th Maintenance Group Weapons Standardization Section, inspects technical order books during the annual weapons load competition.

there are any areas for us to improve," Sergeant Groeling said.

Sergeant Jewell said the competitions require the weapons load teams to take extra steps to be good at their respective position on their team.

"All of this contributes to enhancing a load crew's knowledge and skill in their job and fine tuning their proficiency, ultimately resulting in high-quality load crews for the wing," Sergeant Jewell said.

The winning team will be announced at the annual Maintenance Professional of the Year banquet March 26.

Airmen Against Drunk Driving — Call 687-RIDE or 877-518-6802

Maintainer speaks about deployment

By 2nd Lt. Mary Olsen

Public Affairs

Successful forward deployment during Operation Iraqi Freedom was another historical moment for the B-2 and Maj. Kevin Stroud was part of this event.

Major Stroud, 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, spoke about the B-2's forward deployment during the Military Officer's Association of America dinner meeting March 11 at Mission's End.

The major was the lead maintainer during the deployment. He said a weight was lifted off his shoulders when the B-2 successfully took off.

"Getting to that moment was a lot of work," he said. "The aircraft exceeded all expectations."

Major Stroud told the MOAA group that

low-observable maintenance was a time-consuming factor determining the B-2's ability to fight. During OIF, he recommended that pilots cut back practice flights in the B-2 because it would affect the mission. He received support from Brig. Gen. Doug Raaberg, 509th Bomb Wing commander, and pilots practiced in less-stealthy iron-bird jets.

Maintainers questioned the B-2's ability for quick turn-around deployments during OIF, but its performance eased concerns.

"We were limited by targets, not by LO," Major Stroud said.

After the B-2 successfully forward deployed, Major Stroud said it was time to determine if the B-2 had full operational capability. General Raaberg told Major Stroud that the B-2's accuracy and performance proved it was FOC and it was

declared by Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson, 8th Air Force commander, on Dec. 17, 2003.

"(Our deployment helped write) the history of the B-2," Major Stroud said.

Four of Whiteman's 21 B-2s deployed to perform 43 percent of the weapon drops and sorties during OIF.

"I've had some of the greatest maintainers I've been privileged to lead," said Major Stroud, expressing his gratitude to the maintainers he worked with.

MOAA's purpose is to preserve entitlements for military members and their families. Membership is open to active duty, retired, National Guard, reserve, former commissioned officers and warrant officers. There are nine MOAA chapters in Missouri, and the Spirit of Whiteman chapter meets the second Thursday of every month. For more information, call Janet



Photo by 2nd Lt. Mary Olsen

Maj. Kevin Stroud, 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and Tech. Sgt. Garry Walker, 509th AMXS, review a squadron maintenance schedule.

Allen at 660-747-3634 or Lt. Col. Bruce Adams at 687-3537 or visit <http://www.moaa.org>.

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IRS grants tax relief to U.S. forces

By Gerry Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFP)—American forces serving in designated combat zones supporting the war against terrorism continue to get a tax break from Uncle Sam.

Depending upon rank, eligible servicemembers can exclude from federal income tax either all or some of their active-duty pay, and certain other pays, earned in any month during service in a designated combat zone.

The Internal Revenue Service's Armed Forces' Tax Guide for 2003 states: "A combat zone is any area the president of the United States designates by executive order as an area in which the U.S. armed forces are engaging or have engaged in combat."

Servicemembers who serve one or more days in a designated combat zone are entitled to federal tax exclusion benefits for that entire month, according to the IRS.

Current designated combat zones include Afghanistan, Iraq, parts of the Kosovo area and other specified parts of the Persian Gulf region. This includes Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Servicemembers in several other areas specified in law as "qualified hazardous-duty areas" are eligible for the same tax breaks. Bosnia-Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Croatia have been listed since 1995.

The downloadable Armed Forces' Tax Guide for 2003 can be accessed on the IRS Web site. It lists many, but not all, designated combat zones.

Some servicemembers providing direct support for military operations within a designated combat zone or qualified hazardous-duty area, such as Djibouti, Africa, Turkey, Yemen, and the Philippines, are eligible for income tax exclusions.

To be in direct support of a combat zone, a servicemember must be serving in an area the secretary of defense determines is directly supporting a combat zone. Servicemembers who were deployed from March 19 to Aug. 1 to Mediterranean waters east of 30 degrees east longitude also are eligible for combat zone tax relief, as an "in direct support" area. Servicemembers who served in Israel from Jan. 1 to Aug. 1 also were serving in an "in direct support" area.

While servicemembers can use the tax guide in preparing their 2003 federal tax returns, those who have specific questions about designated combat zones should contact their unit personnel or pay officials or unit tax-assistance officer.

The IRS guide notes servicemembers normally do not need to claim the combat-zone exclusion or subtract eligible earnings on their federal tax returns. The services normally have already excluded combat-zone earnings from the taxable gross income reported on servicemembers' Form W-2s, the guide reads.

The IRS points out that retired military pay and pensions are not eligible as combat zone income-tax exclusions.

In other military pay news, The National Defense Authorization Act for 2004 extended the increase in imminent danger pay to \$225 per month to eligible servicemembers through Dec. 31.

The amount of servicemember federal tax relief depends

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Francesca Popp

Don't fence me in

Brothers Terry and Alvin Schmidt of Challenger Fence Company in Shawnee, Kan., install a chain link fence around the base's perimeter. The new 6-foot fence covers 15 miles, increases base security and replaces the barbed wire barriers around the base. Challenger Fence Company is one of three businesses awarded a contract to improve the base's perimeter security. The \$2.2 million project began in October and should be finished by September.

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TAX, continued from Page 4

upon a taxpayer's rank. For example, enlisted people and warrant officers serving in a designated combat zone or qualified hazardous-duty area for any part of a month exclude all gross income earned for military service that month from federal taxation.

For commissioned officers, the monthly income exclusion is capped at the highest enlisted pay, plus any hostile-fire or imminent-danger pay received. For example, in 2003, the most a commissioned officer could earn tax-free each month was \$5,957.70. For 2004, the cap increases to \$6,315.90 (\$6,090.90, the highest monthly enlisted pay, plus \$225 hostile-fire or imminent-danger pay.)

The IRS also allows servicemembers

deployed to an area entitled to combat zone tax exclusion extra time to file their federal taxes, usually 180 days after the servicemember leaves the combat-zone or qualified hazardous-duty area.

And, the Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003 provides certain above-the-line tax deductions for reservists and guardsmen who travel more than 100 miles to attend military drills and meetings. This new provision allows reservists and guardsmen who cannot itemize deductions to still take these deductions. This provision is effective for the 2003 tax year.

The act also provides a \$12,000 nontaxable death gratuity to families of servicemembers who die on active duty, retroactive to Sept. 10, 2001.

Niner Line

Dial 687-3119 or e-mail
9rl@whiteman.af.mil

Whiteman's Niner Line provides a communication channel for you to obtain information and assistance in making Whiteman a better place to live and work.

Before calling the Niner Line, try to resolve your particular problem with the responsible base agency.

If you've exhausted all the normal avenues to resolve the situation, then call Brig. Gen. Doug Raaberg, 509th Bomb Wing commander, at 687-3119 or e-mail 9rl@whiteman.af.mil.

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Photo By Airman 1st Class Joe Lacdan

Master Sgt. Jeffrey Folsom, 72nd Test and Evaluation Squadron acting first sergeant, speaks with Senior Airman Jason Redding about voting options. Airman Redding is the squadron's voting representative.

1st Sergeant's View

(Editor's note: The 1st Sergeant's View gives Whiteman first sergeants a chance to remind people of correct uniform wear, customs and courtesies, and proper military decorum. Each week, a different first sergeant will share their view.)

Master Sgt. Jeffrey Folsom
72nd Test and Evaluation Squadron
Acting First Sergeant

Election season is quickly approaching, and the election in 2000 gave new meaning to the phrase "every vote counts." Voting is something that should not be taken lightly. Thousands of brave men and women sacrificed their lives so we could have the opportunity to choose who we want to lead our country.

As a rule, a little more than half of all eligible voters actually cast their ballots in a presidential election. In the last three

elections, a president was elected with less than a 50 percent majority of the votes cast.

What this means is that about a quarter of all eligible voters actually vote for the person who will become the leader of the free world.

The Air Force makes it easy to participate by ensuring each squadron has a single point of contact for assistance with absentee ballots. The responsibility falls on each member to keep up with the issues and decide which candidate best reflects their individual values. With the information superhighway available to almost everyone, we can also keep current with the issues pertaining to our local elections.

My personal philosophy is: It's a privilege to vote, and if you don't vote, then you forfeit the right to complain about the decisions our elected officials are making.

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Photo by Senior Airman Shawn Clements

Lt. Col. Brian O'Rear, 509th Operations Support Squadron, congratulates Tech. Sgt. Paul Hills, 509th OSS, after he finished the OSS building renovations.

509th OSS member makes most of time

By Airman 1st Class Joe Lacdan
Public Affairs

Despite working a full-time job in the Air Force and a part-time job as a painter and subcontractor, Tech. Sgt. Paul Hills spent countless hours on squadron projects.

Those projects included remodeling the pilot lounge, staff offices and commander support staff section in Bldg. 200.

"He spent innumerable days, nights and weekends working on our projects," said Lt. Col. Brian O'Rear, 509th Operations Support Squadron commander. "I shudder to think of how much it really cost him. He never complained and was always smiling."

Colonel O'Rear said Sergeant Hills' efforts saved the squadron more than \$100,000. The colonel also credited Master Sgt. Steve Cavener and other OSS members for helping pick up Sergeant Hills' workload when he was away.

"Sergeant Hills' work is truly outstanding," said Master Sgt. Henry Starks, 509th OSS first sergeant. Sergeant Starks said Sergeant Hills continued working on squadron projects until three days before his departure to Osan Air Base, Korea, March 7. "It's a stellar example of service before self."

At Whiteman, Sergeant Hills was a watch supervisor at the radar approach control and in the air traffic control tower.

Master Sgt. Alfred Lewie, RAPCON assistant chief controller, said Hills' positive attitude rubbed off on his peers.

"He would always come into work upbeat and positive," Sergeant Lewie said. "Whenever I needed something, he was there. If I needed someone to pull extra shifts, he would be there in a moment's notice. He never turned me down. He did whatever it took to accomplish the mission."



Photo by Airman 1st Class Joe Lacdan

Static spray

Senior Airman Mark Scarborough, 393rd Aircraft Maintenance Unit, uses a spray hose to clean the B-29 static display near the Spirit Gate March 11. Four to six 393rd AMU members wash the display quarterly.



Photo by Senior Airman Nick Martin

Built to last

Joe Heibel, a mason with Wolf Rogers Contracting in Knob Noster, runs a course of bricks on an exterior wall of the addition to the visitor's center. Once finished, contractors will use this new area when signing on to base.

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Spiritual Operations: chapel provides religious relief



Photo by Airman 1st Class Joe Lacadan

Chaplains (Capt.) Shane Gaster and (Lt. Col.) Keith Darlington, 509th Bomb Wing, lead parishioners during a Protestant service conducted by Chaplain (Capt.) Dan Forman, 509th BW. General protestant worship service begins at 9 a.m., Gospel at 12:45 p.m. and Communion at 8:45 a.m. Sundays. Sunday school is at 10:45 a.m.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Joe Lacadan

Airman 1st Class Timothy Stanford, 509th Bomb Wing chaplain assistant, lights a candle in the base chapel. During war-time scenarios chaplains are considered non-combatants. Chaplain assistants are combatants and can protect chaplains. The chapel staff here plays a key role in ensuring Whiteman's troops are ready to fight by helping commanders aid members with religious needs. Chaplains first try to accommodate service members' and their families' or point them to the right resources. Chaplains counsel married couples and individuals. Each chaplain is assigned to a specific unit and makes monthly visits. Chaplains also make a presence on the flightline, are available for immediate support and report the morale of troops to their commanders.



Photo by Senior Airman Nick Martin

Randy Eckert, Approved Workers Are Not Ashamed mentor, congratulates Desiree Leroy-Mosley after she correctly recites a verse from the Bible. AWANA is a chapel-sponsored program geared toward enriching the lives of children through Bible study, counseling and games. The average AWANA class consists of 50 students. There are 28 volunteers that run the program.

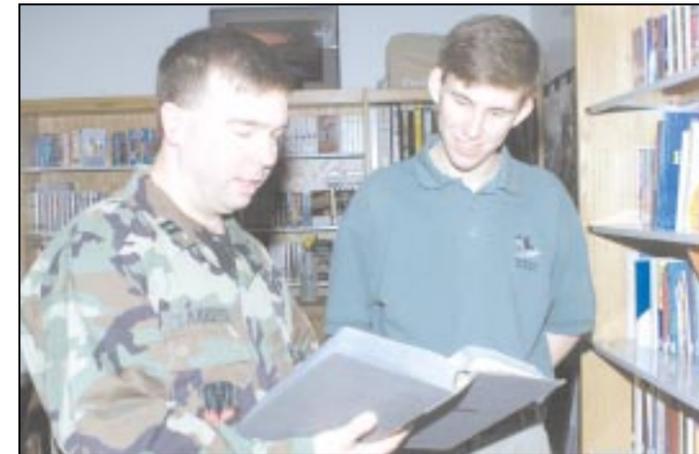


Photo by Airman 1st Class Joe Lacadan

Chaplain (Capt.) Ray Barrett, 509th Bomb Wing, shows Joshua Bartholomew a book written in Hebrew. The chapel has a library with religious reference resources including videos and cassettes. The library is open 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays.



Photo by Senior Airman Nick Martin

Lisa Brandau, Approved Workers Are Not Ashamed volunteer, asks a group of third to sixth graders Bible related questions during a truth and trivia quiz. The AWANA program began six years ago and is maintained by an all-volunteer staff. Student attendance is also voluntary for the chapel-sponsored program. AWANA classes are available for 3- to 12-year-old children and divided among the age groups to offer a more personalized experience. AWANA meets from 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesdays throughout the school year.

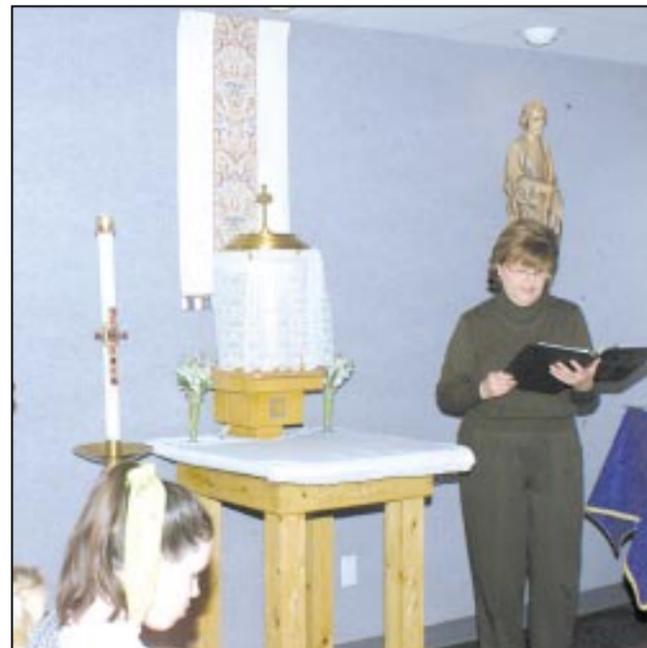


Photo by Airman 1st Class Joe Lacadan

Rita Williams reads a Scripture during the daily Catholic mass. Catholic masses begin at 11:30 a.m. weekdays, 5:30 p.m. Saturdays and 10:45 a.m. Sundays.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Joe Lacadan

Melissa Lueck, chapel accountant, keeps track of chapel funds and accounts. Chaplains are assigned to host a particular service based on their denominational identity and the style of worship.

509th OSS airman develops into top performer

By Airman 1st Class Joe Lacdan
Public Affairs

Tiffany Clements, a soft-spoken small-town girl, joined the 509th Operations Support Squadron combat crew communications flight in 1999.

"She was shy and lacked a little self confidence," said Master Sgt. David Walker, superintendent of combat crew communications.

But it didn't take long for that girl, now a senior airman, to make an impact on her squadron and the wing.

"I could see the potential in her right away," Sergeant Walker said.

It was that potential that led Airman Clements to becoming the 2003 Air Combat Command Combat Crew Communications Airman of the Year, Sergeant Walker said. As a combat crew communications specialist, Airman Clements became certified in conventional B-2 operations in half the normal time.

The certification allows her to issue communications equipment on training flights, and to train aircrews on communications equipment and classified documents. She also was the first person to be trained in the Milstar system. Milstar is a satellite system used in the command post and in the B-2 helping aircrews execute their command and control mission. She's also one of only two people certified to construct safe passage routes for B-2 sorties.

"She's just excelled in everything she's done," Sergeant Walker said. "I think that attests to her drive and ambition."

Airman Clements said her time in the Air Force

opened her eyes to diversity after growing up in a town with a population of 200 people. She said working alongside other enlisted airmen and officers boosted her confidence to new levels.

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, Airman Clements was selected to provide support for B-2 pilots at a forward-operating location. During OIF, she organized 20 communications kits for sorties during OIF. For her efforts, she was awarded an Air Force achievement medal.

She provided communication support when the B-2 dropped 80 500-pound Joint Direct Attack Munitions on a mock air base test site.

While working full time, she also has volunteered as a tutor for elementary school students, assisted people at Warrensburg's veteran's home, and helped organize squadron booster club events. She also visited terminally ill children at Kansas City, Mo., hospital.

Airman Clements said she gets her motivation from her father, who is a farmer and businessman. She also is the squadron's fitness monitor, overseeing the fitness of more than 200 people.

Airman Clements said she hopes to attend officer training school after she receives her bachelor's degree in business management next year.

Sergeant Walker said Airman Clements, a staff sergeant select, is one of the best troops he's had in 21 years of service.

"She takes everything very seriously. I see a lot of the airmen coming in today that don't have that drive and motivation," Sergeant Walker said. "Airman Clements has a lot of spirit and patriotism, because everything she does, she gives 100 per-



Photo by Airman 1st Class Joe Lacdan

Senior Airman Tiffany Clements, 509th Operations Support Squadron, shows Capt. Bryan Wicking, 509th OSS, how to use a data transfer device. Airman Clements was named the 2003 Air Combat Command Combat Crew Communications Airman of the Year.

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Lenten feast

Master Sgt. Luz Nixon, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron, and Christine Bartholomew, wife of Maj. Bruce Bartholomew, 509th LRS commander, participate in the Lenten lunch at the chapel. The chapel offers free lunch after the Catholic and Protestant services Wednesdays during Lent. For more details, call 687-3652.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Joe Lacdan

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What's happening

Education

Class improves test-taking skills

A study and test-taking skills class takes place 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday at the base training and education services center. This course focuses on reading, note-taking, study, memorization, test-taking techniques and motivation. For more details or to register, call the center or your unit training manager.

ASE testing available

The Automotive Service Excellence tests are available to active-duty and Reserve members at the base training and education services center. The registration deadline is March 26. To order a test or get more details, e-mail Ron Johnson at ron.johnson@whiteman.af.mil.

Scholarship deadline approaches

The deadline for the Whiteman Officers' Spouses' Club and Whiteman Enlisted Club Organization spouse and student scholarships is March 31. Applications are available from the first sergeants, library, community center, education center and family support center. Send the completed application to Kristen Brechwald, WOSC Scholarship Committee, 703 Shamrock Lane, Warrensburg, Mo., 64093.

Community

ALS Class 04-C schedules events

✓ The ALS Class 04-C reveille begins at 7:30 a.m. Thursday at the ALS drill pad. Participants must be in place by 7:25 a.m.

✓ ALS Class 04-C graduates Thursday at Mission's End. The social begins at 5:30 p.m. and graduation at 6 p.m. The speaker is 1st Lt. Mary Thigpen, 509th Operations Group executive officer. The menu is sliced beef brisket with garlic mashed potatoes, chef's vegetables and peach cobbler. The cost is \$15.95 for members and \$17.95 for nonmembers. The attire is mess dress or semi-formal for military members, and coat and tie for civilians. Tickets are available from a Class 04-C graduate.

BCC luncheon scheduled

The base community council luncheon begins at noon April 1 at Mission's End. The menu is ham and turkey croissant with potato chips. The cost is \$8.50. Base members interested in attending must R.S.V.P. with the public affairs office by noon March 29. For more details, or to make a reservation, call 687-6151. Reservations can be e-mailed to bcc.rsvp@whiteman.af.mil.

Stress management available

A stress management class begins at noon Tuesdays beginning Tuesday in the life skills support center conference room. Students will learn strategies and skills for coping with life's stresses. For more details or to register, call family advocacy at 687-4342.

SHARP class set

A Shifting Angry Response Patterns anger management class begins at 2 p.m. Tuesday in the life skills support center conference room. This four-week class is for people interested in learning effective strategies for understanding and managing anger. For more details or to register, call family advocacy at 687-4342.

Parent support program available

The New Parent Support Program is an education and outreach program, is available to new and expecting parents, and offers one-on-one education and support from a registered nurse. For more details or to register, call family advocacy at 687-4342.

Mom's, Pop's & Tot's play group meets

The Mom's, Pop's, & Tot's play group meets 10 a.m.-noon Thursdays at the Missouri Army National Guard Armory. For more details, call Stephanie Zink at 687-4342.

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Whiteman Spirit Award



Capt. Terrance Mahon

509th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Capt. Terrance Mahon, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron, received the Whiteman Spirit Award from Col. Ned Schoeck, 509th Bomb Wing vice commander, Monday.

Lt. Col. Fred Niblock, 509th Bomb Wing, nominated him for the award.

As one of the wing's Unit Compliance Inspection database developers, Captain Mahon helped develop, design and field a UCI data base designed to offer a common self-inspection/documentation platform. He spent numerous hours during his off-duty time to accomplish this, Colonel Niblock said. Captain Mahon also made more than 7,000 inputs in the data base.

"If it hadn't been for Captain Mahon's initiative and drive, we wouldn't have been able to field such a great self-inspection tool," Colonel Niblock said. "I fully expect the Air Combat Command Inspector General to identify our UCI data base as an ACC best practice. Captain Mahon is one of many talented officers here at Whiteman willing to improve the process."

Personally Speaking

Duty title: Operations officer

Time on station: 2 years, 7 months

Time in service: 20 years, 2 months

Hometown: Brewster, N.Y.

Spouse: Capt. Lisa Mahon, 509th LRS

Children: none

Hobbies: Playing guitar, reading, golf and flying.

Goals: To learn a second language.

Best thing about Whiteman: It's perpetual excellence.

From World War II to today, we're still making mission history.

Pet peeves: Red light bureaucrats without mission vision.

What motivates your winning spirit? The sense of duty and satisfaction of real accomplishment.

If you could change one thing at Whiteman, what would it be? I'd add lush rolling hills and a forest or two.

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.

Submitting

CIVILIAN

EMPLOYEE

of the

WEEK



Thank you

To nominate a civilian employee, send an e-mail to whiteman.spirit@whiteman.af.mil.

Be sure to include why this person is being nominated.

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... on **Andrew Bachmann, Courtney Baryliski, Taylor Booher, Bailey Clark, Hayden Deaton, Shelbie Deaton, Mollie Gaddis, Destiney Hall, Haleigh Hamrick, Darryl Henderson, Jacob Kari, Michaela Kerner, Kelsey Kline, Courtney Markley, Jessica Messick, Joey Moorman, Morgan Murray, Danny Porter, Randi Roberson, Kennedy Ross, Amanda Scott, Mattea Smith, Rhianna Stoecklin, Raven Towns, Jalil Tuggle, Kindra Wellman and Ricky Wright** for being Whiteman Elementary School's Students of the Month.

.... on **Airman 1st Class Ella Cvirko**, 509th Medical Operations Squadron Dental Flight, for scoring a 99 percent on the dental assisting "A" set career development course.

Around the Air Force

Airmen win medals at wrestling championship

SAN ANTONIO (AFP)

— Steven Woods, of the 10th Services Squadron at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo., won the 74-kilogram (163-pound) weight class in Greco-Roman wrestling at the 2004 Armed Forces Wrestling Championships. Kevin Hoy, of the 10th SVS, won the 120-kilogram (264.5-pound) weight class in Freestyle wrestling. The championship event was March 4-8 at Naval Air Station New Orleans.

In his first match, Woods defeated second-ranked Keith Sieracki, 4-2. His second match was against sixth-ranked Curtis Barnes. After winning this match, 4-3, he won his final match against Jason Nichols with a decisive 14-0 technical superiority score.

Jacob Hey, of the 21st SVS at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., and Corey Farkas, of the 10th SVS, won silver medals in the Greco-Roman Championship.

Hey competed in the 60-kilogram (132-pound) weight class, and Farkas competed in the 120-kilogram (264.5-pound) weight class.

Hoy defeated Paul Devlin, 5-4 in his first match. He then went on to beat Josh Feldman, 7-4, and Frank Workman, 7-5.

Christopher Bennett, of the 960th Airborne Air Control Squadron at Tinker AFB, Okla., won a silver medal in the 66-kilogram (145.5-pound) Freestyle.



Courtesy photo

Steven Woods took the gold medal in the 74-kilogram (163-pound) weight class in Greco-Roman wrestling at the 2004 Armed Forces Wrestling Championships. Woods is assigned to the 10th Services Squadron at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo.

This space is reserved for advertisements

Deployed LRS member wins AEF weightlifting crown

By Tech. Sgt. William Seabrook
376th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

Jose Garcia continued his domination of Air Expeditionary Force Silver's bench press competitions March 7 with his fourth straight victory.

Weighing in at 150 pounds, the 376th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron's young powerhouse successfully lifted 325 pounds during the event to secure the win. Garcia, who is deployed from Whiteman Air Force Base, is a member of the 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

The fitness center here conducts these events following International Strength Association rules, said Kelly Hodgson, 376th Expeditionary Services Squadron.

"These strict rules make the lift more difficult for competitors because they must follow the head judge's commands of 'bar ready,' 'press' and 'rack,'" Hodgson said. "Their feet can't move, buttocks must remain on the bench, and the bar cannot descend at any moment during the attempt."

To determine the strongest lifter, competitors weigh in and based on their body weight, are assigned a

coefficient or number. The lighter a person weighs, the higher the coefficient. Competitors get three attempts at a weight they choose. Their best lift is multiplied by the coefficient to get a total score. Their highest score wins the competition.

"Jose Garcia and second-place winner Reggie Darden, a Marine transient, each lifted 325 pounds. However, Darden was 44 pounds heavier than Garcia so his coefficient was lower," Hodgson said. "This allowed Jose to take the competition."

Garcia said positive thinking and personal goal-setting helped him compete.

"If people are interested in lifting weights, they need to set their own personal goals and not worry about what other people are lifting," Garcia said. "When I came here, I was only lifting 295 pounds and in less than four months I have successfully lifted 340 pounds."

"If people stay motivated and keep working hard, they can accomplish anything — I'm proof of that," he said.

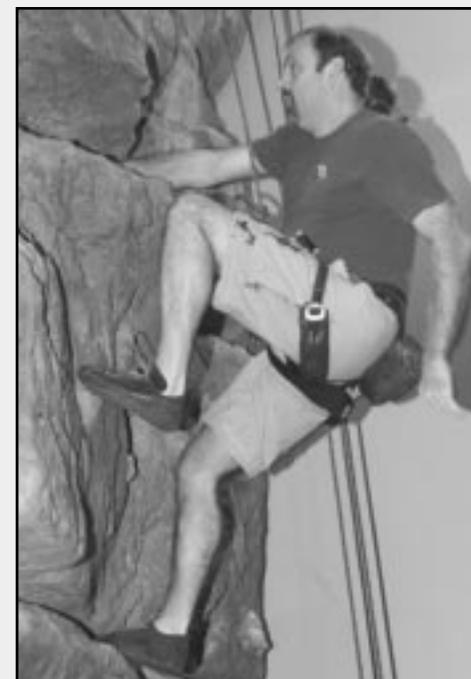
Seven people competed in the competition. Garcia received a \$50 gift certificate for finishing first, while Darden received a \$25 gift certificate for second.



Courtesy photo

Jose Garcia, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron, lifted 325 pounds — more than twice his weight, to win the Air Expeditionary Force Silver bench press competitions March 7.

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Photos by Airman 1st Class Joe Lacdan

Vertical milestones

Left: Les McDaniel, 509th Contracting Squadron, climbs an indoor rock-climbing wall at outdoor recreation. Mr. McDaniel has 560 climbs and won an award for climbing two miles. **Above:** Lloyd Dunn, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron, ascends to the top of the rock climbing wall. Mr. Dunn is the leading wall climber here with 820 climbs and more than three miles climbed. He also won an award for reaching the two-mile mark.

Get fit, Stay fit in 2004



Services page editor.....Beth Ott
509th Services Squadron.....687-4386

*No federal endorsement of mentioned sponsors intended.

Travel & Leisure

Outdoor Recreation 687-5565

Katy Trail ride

A 25-mile bike ride along the Katy Trail takes place 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. March 27. Bring your bike, water and lunch to travel from Clinton to Green Ridge, Mo. Outdoor recreation will provide free bikes and helmets if needed. There's a \$7 fee for transportation. Sign up by Wednesday.

Rock climbing

Certified climbers can rock climb 5:30-9 p.m. March 26 at outdoor recreation. A free certification course takes place 6-8 p.m.

Intramural bass fishing

April is the first month of intramural bass fishing tournaments. The competition begins April 8. There's a one-time fee of \$20. Call outdoor recreation for rules and schedules.

Wall class

Take a wall class 9-11 a.m. April 3. Sign up for this free event at outdoor recreation.

Boater safety class

Get qualified to rent a boat from outdoor recreation at 11 a.m. April 1 at a boater safety class. Learn Missouri state laws, rules about safety and using equipment. Special classes for squadron functions and hands-on training are also available. Spaces are limited; sign up early.

Tickets & Travel 687-5643

'Name our fish'

Enter in the "name our fish" contest through April 2. Tickets & Travel's pet is a male Betta and needs a name. A prize will be given to the contestant who comes up with the best name. The contest is open to all ages with a military identification card. Visit Tickets & Travel to enter.

Whiteman Base Theater

Friday
Win a Date with Tad Hamilton 7 p.m. PG-13
Starring - Kate Bosworth & Topher Grace

Saturday
Barbershop 2: Back in Business 7 p.m. PG-13
Starring - Ice Cube & Cedric the Entertainer

Sunday
You Got Served 5:30 p.m. PG-13
Starring - Omari Grandberry & Steve Harvey

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

<http://www.aafes.com/ems/conus/whiteman.htm>

Food & Fun

Mission's End 687-4422

Prime rib buffet

All are welcome to enjoy a prime rib buffet 5:30-8 p.m. today at Mission's End. The cost is \$13.95 for members and \$16.95 for nonmembers.

Members \$1 dinner

Members are welcome to a \$1 dinner 4-6 p.m. March 27 at Mission's End. Enjoy barbecued brisket, baked beans, corn bread, potato salad and cole slaw. A children's buffet will include chicken tenders, pizza, macaroni and cheese, mini corn dogs, corn and waffle fries.

Karaoke

Enjoy or perform karaoke 8 p.m.-midnight today in the Lavene Lounge at Mission's End.



Community Activities



Skills Development 687-5691

Framing class

Take a framing class 6-9 p.m. Wednesday at the skills development center. The \$40 fee includes instruction and supplies. Sign up by noon Tuesday.

Stained glass semi-annual sale

All in-stock glass is 25 percent off at the semi-annual sale at the skills development center.

Clay sculpting class

Learn the art of clay sculpting in a three-session class noon-2 p.m. April 10, 17 and 24 at the skills development center. There's a \$30 fee plus supplies. Sign up by noon the day before the class.

Basic sewing class

Learn basic sewing skills at a three-session class 5:30-7:30 p.m. April 8, 15 and 22 at skills development. There's a \$30 fee plus supplies. Students must bring a sewing machine, pattern, notions and fabric ready to sew. Sign up by noon the day before the class.

Clay coiling class

Learn the art of clay coiling in a three-session class 9-11 a.m. April 7, 14 and 21 at the skills development center. There's a \$30 fee plus supplies. Sign up by noon the day before the class.

Youth Center 687-5586

Bowling night

Pre-teens in fifth through seventh grade can bowl 6-9 p.m. March 27 at Stars & Strikes. The cost is \$4 for members and \$5 for nonmembers. Bring money for snacks. Sign up starts Monday.

Baseball and t-ball registration

Today is the last day to register for baseball and t-ball 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m. at the youth center. This event is \$30 for members and \$38 for nonmembers. Late registrations will be taken if space is available with an extra \$10 fee. Children must be 5 years old to be eligible. Current physicals and shot records on file at the youth center are required for participation.

Spring has sprung

Children in kindergarten through fourth grade are invited to a night of crafts, bingo and more 6:30-9:30 p.m. March 26 at the youth center. There's a \$5 fee for members and \$6.50 fee for nonmembers. Sign up begins Monday.

Flashlight Easter egg hunt

Children in kindergarten through fourth grade can bring flashlights and hunt for Easter eggs 6:30-9:30 p.m. April 2 at the youth center. Each hunt will be divided into age categories. Indoor activities will include cookie decorating, bingo, face painting, a movie and more. This event is \$7 for members and \$8.50 for nonmembers. Cookies and punch will be provided. Sign up begins March 29.

Hangout night

Pre-teens in fifth through seventh grade can hangout 6-9 p.m. April 2 at the youth center. Watch a movie, play video games, foosball and more. This is \$2 for members and \$3 for nonmembers. Sign up begins March 29.

Child Development Center 687-5588

Drop-in care

The child development center has drop-in day care for all ages during regular operating hours on a space available basis. Call for more details.

Community Center 687-5617

Spring safari

See the baby rhinoceros at the Kansas City Zoo. All ages are welcome to take a trip 10 a.m.-6 p.m. March 20. The \$12 cost includes transportation and admission. Bring money for lunch. Today is the last day to sign up.

Basket weaving

Anyone 9 and older can make a spring basket 1-4 p.m. March 27 at the community center. The cost of \$2 includes instruction and supplies. Sign up by March 26.

Cartooning class

Learn the art of cartooning 3-4 p.m. March 27 at the community center. Participants must bring a sketch pad and a No. 2 pencil. There's no sign up deadline for this free event.

Spring Colossal Cookie Challenge

All ages can enter in the spring Colossal Cookie Challenge beginning at 2 p.m. April 3 at the community center. Submit one dozen cookies with the original recipe. The categories include holiday or special occasions, no bake, healthy and cookie maker's special. Participants may submit one product in each category if desired. Cookies will be judged based on taste, appearance and creativity. Awards will be given to the top three placements in each category. Pick up an entry form for this free event at the community center.

4x4 membership meeting

A 4x4 meeting is held at 3 p.m. March 27 at the community center. Members and those interested in joining are welcome. You must own your own 4x4 to be a participant in this club.

Family Child Care 687-5590/1180

Want a profitable home-based career?

Care givers are needed for evenings, weekends, swing-shift workers, infants and special needs children. Providers with chronic health problems are accepted. Air Force is now offering a subsidy for providers who are willing to meet these critical needs. Providers who hold a standard license are subsidized \$125 a week per qualifying child.

Teen Center 687-5819

Did you know?

Teens can join an educational discussion about the power of choice 7-8 p.m. today at the teen center. Teens can watch a video and discuss guidelines to making choices that are right for them. There's no sign up for this free event.

Get to know us week

Teens and their parents are welcome to get to know us during open hours March 30 through April 3 at the teen center. This is an opportunity to learn about the activities and programs the teen center offers. There will be popcorn and soda at this free event.

Barbecue blitz

Teens are welcome to socialize with friends while enjoying hamburgers and hotdogs 6-8 p.m. March 26 at the teen center. This event is \$3 for members and \$5 for nonmembers. Bring money for drinks. Sign up by Wednesday.

Movie matinee

Teens can travel to the Galaxy Theater in Sedalia, Mo., 1-6 p.m. April 3. There's a transportation fee of \$1 for members and \$2 for nonmembers. Bring money for movie and lunch. Sign up by April 1.



Sports & Recreation



Fitness Center 687-5496

Lift the B-2s

Look for this quarterly incentive program beginning April 1 through June 30. Call the fitness center for more details and to sign up.

Royal Oaks 687-5572

Golf chili bowl

Enter the golf chili bowl beginning at 9 a.m. March 27. There's a one-time \$15 entry fee plus cart and greens fee. Sign up by Tuesday at Royal Oaks.