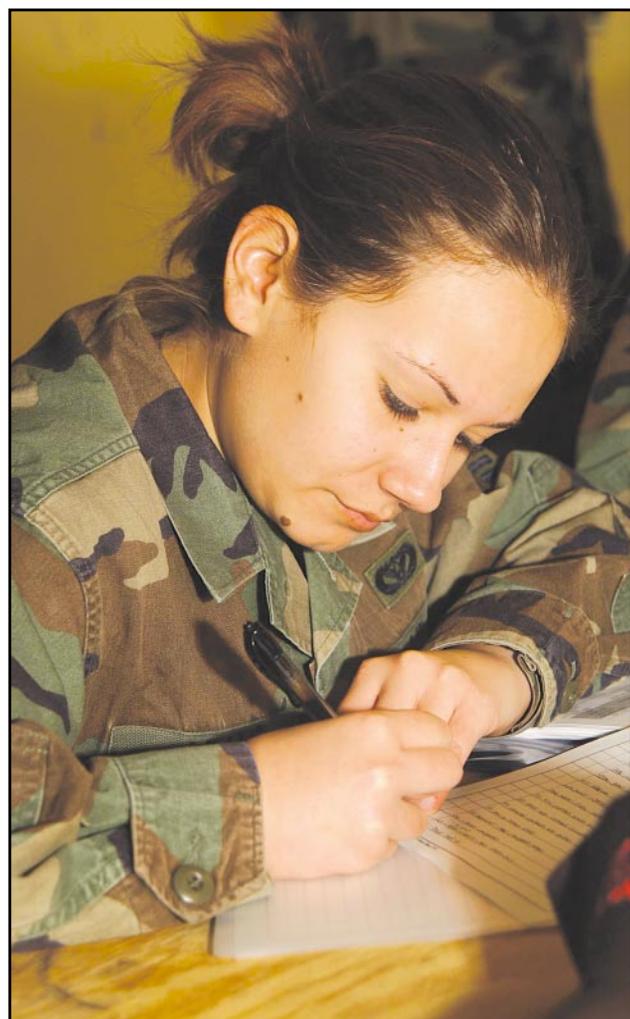




Photos by Staff Sgt. Tia Schroeder

Airmen 1st Class Celine Gueit and Jackie Wilson, 509th Communications Squadron, duck for cover during the tornado response exercise March 19. The exercise allowed Whiteman members to practice preparing for a tornado.

## Exercise tests tornado response



Senior Airman Terri Adams, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron, fills out a natural disaster checklist Friday. The list helps ensure people are looking for shelter during a tornado and ensures proper recovery efforts are made. The purpose of the exercise was for base organizations to practice delivering relevant weather information to base members.

By Airman 1st Class Joe Lacdan  
Public Affairs

With tornado season in Missouri approaching, the wing practiced disaster response procedures in an exercise March 19.

The 509th Bomb Wing Plans Office, the 509th Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight and representatives from base organizations combined forces to put the exercise together. Wing members practiced getting relevant weather information to the base population, said Master Sgt. Patrick Rodriguez, 509th Bomb Wing.

The exercise tested response procedures in specific areas such as the dispersal and protection of equipment, and an emergency move of a B-2 into a hangar.

The 509th Civil Engineer Fire Department dispatched vehicles to simulate a two-car vehicle rollover accident.

The four-hour exercise, which takes place twice annually, began with a tornado watch received from the 26th Operational Weather Squadron at Barksdale Air Force Base, La. The unit provides regional weather reports for Army posts and Air Force Bases in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

The 509th OSS Weather Flight sends the information from Barksdale to the command post which forwards it to each unit. The wing plans and the weather flight staff members decided the path of the mock tornado and wing plans and the Exercise Evaluation Team determined the level of damage.

"It uncovered some areas that need to improve and it validated areas where we have strengths," said Lt. Col. Fred Niblock, 509th Bomb Wing chief of special projects.

Master Sgt. James Branda, 509th OSS weather flight superintendent said response procedures were examined after tornados hit the Whiteman area in May 2003. A tornado touched down inside Knob Noster State Park and one touched down three miles southwest of Warrensburg.

"The exercise needed to be built up because a tornado hitting here is a possible reality," Sergeant Branda said. "Due to last year's event, we made the exercise more realistic."

The exercise tornado's path of destruction was designed to hit the flight line in a way that would have stopped operations for days. Mock damage was inflicted on 30 facilities. This gave the Disaster Control Group and 509th CES members an opportunity to prioritize the damage and repair critical base systems.

## UCI Countdown 17 days

### News in Brief

#### Clubs may require special status

Squadron booster clubs and other fundraising activity organizations may be required to become a private organization. POs are self-sustaining interest groups organized by people outside the scope of official business. If your organization's or activity's assets exceed a monthly average of \$1,000 over a three-month period, it's required to become a PO. Members of any PO or unofficial activity who wish to start a fundraiser must submit an official request. For more details, call 2nd Lt. Rosanna Wadkins, 509th Services Squadron private organization monitor.

#### Military family appreciation day set

The Warrensburg Military Affairs Committee sponsors a Military Family Appreciation day 5-9 p.m. April 30 at the Warrensburg Community Activity Center. Free food and swimming will be available. Players from the Central Missouri State University basketball and baseball teams will be available to play games with children. The event is open to all military families. For more details, call the public affairs office at 687-6123 by April 23 and provide the number of attendees from your family.

#### BCC luncheon scheduled

The base community council luncheon begins at noon Thursday 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 Monday.

### Inside

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- ✦ Continuing the Legacy .....Page 6
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- ✦ Sports .....Page 20

### Weather

<b>Saturday</b>		H 68 ° L 60 °
Mostly cloudy		
<b>Sunday</b>		H 71 ° L 62 °
Mostly cloudy		

For more complete weather information, visit <https://www.whiteman.af.mil/509oss/osw/index.htm>. Courtesy of 509th OSS/OSW.

## Commander's Corner

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

**LOOKING BACK ... AND FORGING AHEAD** — In retrospect, this year has been an extraordinary year for our nation, our Air Force, the 509th Bomb Wing and Whiteman families.

Furthermore, the 442nd Fighter Wing, the Navy's Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit 114 and Missouri Army National Guard 1/135th Attack Battalion had an incredible year — taking the fight to the enemy!

One year ago our nation — and our airmen — were at war with Iraq. We were all new to the Air Expeditionary Force cycle. We have grown significantly more than any year at Whiteman. Little did we know we stood on the cusp of the most heavily tasked operation in Whiteman's history.

I get out and speak to a lot of groups, both civilian and military. The questions almost always center on what our capabilities were during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Candidly, I tell them that the technology and capabilities we had a year ago are no longer the issue. What excites me the most, believe it or not, isn't what we accomplished during Iraqi Freedom. My pride really rests in what we have accomplished since that conflict — in



the air, on the ground and with our people. Let me explain.

Since the end of the B-2's combat operations in Iraqi Freedom, this airplane literally has become a different weapon system. The B-2 has matured.

What a feat to be able to declare the B-2's Full Operational Capability on the 10th anniversary of its arrival at Whiteman. Our weapons capabilities, though formidable during OIF, took a five-fold leap with the advent of the capability to drop 80 precision weapons out of one airplane. Our over-the-horizon communications technology, along with the ability to download a complete mission — inflight — will take the B-2 to a level the air component commanders are just now beginning to realize.

The lessons learned from operating the aircraft and our people from two simultaneous locations have been deeply ingrained, and are now the stepping stone from which we will operate in the future. I guarantee you, there's no team better prepared and trained to move people, equipment and aircraft than our Spirit team. Our ability to get 509ers to the fight, wherever that may be, has radically improved. We are now intimately familiar with the AEF process. We have 509ers deployed today in countries we could not have imagined going to just a few short years ago.

Speaking of AEF's ... as we start to reflow into the normal AEF rotations, i.e. AEF's Silver, 7, 8, 9, and 10 ...



Courtesy photo

**A 509er marshalls a B-2 into position during a deployment to a forward location March 2003. Hundreds of Whiteman members deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, either as part of the first-ever B-2 combat deployment or as part of Air Expeditionary Force taskings. Units across Whiteman continue to support deployments in the ongoing war against terrorism.**

we know how to get there and fight ... now we have to stay connected on the home front.

Deployments can be tough on families. Supervisors, commanders and first shirts ... this extra burden falls on you! The key spouses need us, too, as they carefully nurture their squadron's families. The spouses and family members of our deployed airmen are just as important to our team as those engaged in a "hot" war ... please keep everyone in your cross check.

## Boldly go ... to 509th Medical Group Tricare

By Maj. Jeffery Johnson  
509th Medical Support Squadron commander

Much like Star Trek, Tricare has gone through several revisions and generations. When the first generation of Tricare rolled out in 1995, there were many changes to the way the Air Force Medical Service facilitated our patients' needs in accessing and covering needed medical care benefits at downtown, off-base medical treatment facilities.

For the past several years, Tricare has evolved into its current second-generation status. This evolution has witnessed many additional changes in the AFMS system, with the downsizing of medical groups Air Forcewide inpatient MTFs to clinics, such as the transformation of the 509th Medical Group during fiscal 1998. As this downsizing went on, the Tricare system became more robust and dependent on the availability of civilian health-care opportunities, as certain medical specialties were outsourced by the AFMS.

The current Tricare system has been so successful that last year the 509th MedGp, through the Tricare contract with TriWest Systems, referred out more than \$6 million for hospitalized patients alone, this doesn't account for the additional referral visits for procedures, tests or other health

care.

Well, the winds of change are once more blowing across the landscape of Tricare. I know many people don't like change, but I've heard it said before that one has two choices regarding change. You can accept the change, embrace it and learn to leverage the change to a positive outcome, or, you can resist the change, fight it, perhaps delay it, treat it like an enemy, and eventually recognize that the change will prevail.

It is my hope we can begin now to help Team Whiteman embrace the upcoming transformation of Tricare through the implementation of Tricare - The Next Generation of Contracts, or what's been dubbed TNEC.

So how does TNEC impact the 509th MedGp's patients? In reality, the transformation from the patient's perspective will essentially be transparent. TNEC focuses more on how the MedGp's leadership purchases additional downtown healthcare to supplement the healthcare services provided by MedGp providers.

The big change, though, is how the MedGp's funding stream will be radically changed. For the first time ever, the AFMS will begin a process where the MedGp is given front-loaded funding based on the Tricare Prime enrolled population.

Now here comes the biggest change



Photo by Master Sgt. Dee Ann Poole

**Tricare representatives Brenda Pindilli, Lois Odle, Marv Caffal, Kim Oben and Staff Sgt. Peter Ross pose with Maj. Jeffrey Johnson, 509th Medical Support Squadron commander. The 509th Medical Group staff and Tricare work together to provide care for Team Whiteman.**

of all. The overall "checkbook" for purchasing the supplemental care necessary for the medical needs of our patients' health will be in the hands of the 509th MedGp commander. The commander will be responsible for writing the checks and balancing the checkbook for these supplemental care events.

OK, so what does all this really mean? Well, let's use a common example to flesh out the impact of TNEC. Let's say one

bright sunny Spring day, you're getting ready for work and you discover you have a hang-nail. Ouch, that hurt! You try to ignore it, but everything you brush past gets caught on it.

As you get to Spirit Gate, you're digging out your ID card to show the gate guard, when drat, you catch it on your clothing, and yipes, now it's bleeding. You're contemplating if you should go to the clinic or just shoot back out the gate to get to the nearest emergency room. But oh by the way, you're on PRP.

So, the trickle of blood now seems to be a torrent. You're convinced you'll quite possibly bleed out and lose consciousness, leading to all kinds of potential problems. You make it to the ER. The local civilian MTF providers are efficient. They get you into a treatment room, and order X-rays and lab tests just to be sure. They examine your finger and determine they can stop the blood loss without stitches. They apply the appropriate bandaging, provide you a prescription for three or four medicines and send you on your way, having you sign for the care and give you a bill.

You drive back to base, feeling better, dropping your prescriptions off at the 509th MedGp Pharmacy and take a seat in the waiting room to check over the

See TNEC, Page 3

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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

## Mission trainer leaves for upgrade

By Airman 1st Class Joe Lacdan  
Public Affairs

B-2 pilots recently said farewell to an old friend — at least for a few months.

The B-2 mission trainer, operated by the 394th Combat Training Squadron, was shipped to the L3 Communications Inc.'s preplanned modification/development center in Binghamton, N.Y., March 7 for upgrades. It will remain there for 12-18 months.

“(The upgrade) will re-host the computer systems which run our weapons systems trainer and maintenance trainers,” said Lt. Col. Andy Cernicky, 394th CTS commander. “This re-hosting of computers will allow radio upgrades to the trainers. Aircrews will be able to fully train on the latest radio communication suites available, increasing their warfighting capability.”

Most B-2 pilots who have undergone B-2 qualifi-

cation training here have used this 16,615-pound device.

Colonel Cernicky said upgrades like these are crucial to keeping pilots' skills fresh.

“Simulators like the mission trainer are cost-effective methods to not only train and educate new pilots, but to retain proficiency of already qualified pilots, sharpen their skills, and explore the extreme edges of flying and the combat envelope,” Colonel Cernicky said.

Since January 1994, the B-2 mission trainer has provided 5,217.9 training hours. It's a high-fidelity device that trains pilots on B-2 functions such as navigation, weapons delivery, radar and other avionics-related items.

The 744-square-foot machine allows pilots to practice combat missions in a realistic environment, Colonel Cernicky said. He also said the device helps challenge pilots with mock malfunctions options that help build pilots' confidence and proficiency.



Courtesy photo

The B-2 mission trainer, shown being transported from Bldg. 153 March 7, was shipped to Binghamton, N.Y., for upgrades.

## TNEX, continued from Page 2

bill. You note that there's a \$330 ER flat-rate charge. Then they add on the cost of the X-rays, the ER doctor's charge, the lab tests, and the injection of antibiotics and pain-reduction injection. The grand total for the hangnail visit is \$500.

Under TNEX, this \$500 bill, if deemed medically necessary, will come straight out of the 509th MedGp's checkbook. So last year, the more than \$6 million spent on hospitalizations would come out of the front-loaded per-patient funding the MedGp will have gotten to purchase this type of care. One interesting note, though, under TNEX, if this imaginary visit is determined to have been medically unnecessary, there is a potential the beneficiary could be billed for the care rendered.

So again, what does this really mean? It means that more, now than ever, we need our patient's to also be our partners in their healthcare. The 509th MedGp staff needs your help in making sure we do everything possible to first take care of you at the

509th MedGp. Then, if we can not fulfill your specific healthcare need, we will aggressively locate and purchase that healthcare service you need.

The moral of the story: Tricare Please Try Our Care First. We encourage you to give your 509th MedGp staff the chance to take care of your healthcare needs. Call us first to see what we can do.

TNEX is there to help us help you receive the best health care available anywhere. By calling us first, you're empowering your medical care team to employ their leading-edge providers, support staff, ancillary support team or the Tricare Service Center crew to be good stewards of the resources provided to us to provide you and your loved ones second-to-none healthcare services.

We're confident Tricare TNEX will provide the catalyst for your MedGp team to boldly go where no MTF has gone before!



Photo by Airman 1st Class Joe Lacdan

## Bring on the bronze

Maj. Chase McCown, 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Raymond Reph, 509th AMXS, received bronze stars Tuesday from Col. Chris Matson, 509th Maintenance Group commander. The bronze star is awarded to military members for combat heroism or meritorious service.

## Motorcycle riders encouraged to remember safety

The 2004 motorcycle riding season is approaching, and the 509th Bomb Wing Safety office reminds riders on a few things to think about.

If riders haven't used their motorcycles for two to three months, they should conduct a thorough pre-ride inspection of their motorcycles and riding gear before their first ride.

Remember the riding requirements before operating a motorcycle.

### Training before operation:

✓ Air Force members who operate a motorcycle on or off duty, on or off a Department of Defense installation are required to attend an approved motorcycle rider safety foundation course. This includes members who choose not to register their vehicles on a DOD installation.

✓ Also, it's mandatory for motorcycle operators to

have a one-on-one counseling session with their associated commander.

### Personal Protective Gear:

✓ Department of Transportation/Snell-approved helmet  
✓ Eye protection. Use impact-resistant sunglasses if your windshield extends above eye level. If not, a full-face shield or goggles must be worn.

✓ A brightly colored upper outer garment. The garment must have reflective qualities if used during hours of reduced visibility or darkness. The popular orange vest offers the requirements in this category.

✓ Full-length pants and long-sleeved shirt.

✓ Over-the-ankle protective footwear, preferably leather. Don't use running shoes.

✓ Full-fingered gloves. Approved riding gloves offer the best protection.

Purchase the best protective gear that you can afford.

Motorcycle-specific riding apparel is specifically designed for this application and offers the best protection.

### Motorcycle Safety Course Dates

April 28-29	Beginner's rider course
May 5	Experienced rider course
May 27-28	Beginner's rider course
June 2-3	Beginner's rider course
July 6	Experienced rider course
July 13-14	Beginner's rider course

Riders must obtain a valid license with a motorcycle endorsement or a motorcycle operator's permit before signing up for available motorcycle safety courses. More than one year of riding experience is required to sign up for the experienced rider course. For more details on requirements, call the wing safety office at 687-SAFE. (Courtesy of the 509th Bomb Wing Safety Office.)

# Wing to recognize 50 in ceremony

The 509th Bomb Wing will recognize 50 promotees in a ceremony Thursday at Mission's End. They are:

**Airman Michael Meyers**, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron,

**Airmen 1st Class Justina Andry**, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron, **Jonathan Brill**, 509th Munitions Squadron, **Kenneth Butler**, 509th Communications Squadron, **James Dockery**, 509th Operations Support Squadron, **Chrisma Lopes**, 509th CS, and **Carl Potter**, 509th Maintenance Squadron,

**Senior Airmen Benton Beard**, 509th LRS, **Jesse Behrman**, 509th BW, **Michelle Bomar**, 509th MUNS, **Jeremy Buehler**, 509th MXS, **Cassandra Curtis**, 509th CES, **Craig Hoivik**, 509th CS, **Corie Hudson**, 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, **Oris Key**, 509th Security Forces Squadron, **David Leonard**, 509th MXS, **Michael McIntosh**, 509th MXS, **Chad Moses**, 509th CES, **Jared Orientale**, 509th MXS, **Joshua Rodriguez**, 509th AMXS, **German Romero**, 509th AMXS, **Mario Salaiz**, 509th LRS, **Corey Sherman**, 509th AMXS, **Stacy Singer**, 509th Medical Operations

Squadron, and **Anthony Vespa**, 509th SFS,

**Staff Sgts. Yvette Arambula**, 509th AMXS, **Ledain Brocato**, 509th MXS, **James Brock**, 509th SFS, **Dustin Hahn**, 509th MXS, **Christopher Johnson**, 509th AMXS, **Jaqueline Priessman**, 509th SFS, **Alan Reynolds**, 509th CS, **Ethan Souder**, 509th MXS, **Trandin Watkins**, 509th MXS, and **Joseph Weir**, 509th MXS,

**Tech. Sgts. James Baker**, 509th CS, **Richard Barker**, 509th LRS, **Loren Cheney**, 509th Maintenance Group, **Shelby Crites**, 509th CS, **Shane Hagemeyer**, 509th CS, **Keith Kelchen**, 509th BW, **Robert Kerner**, 509th MXG, **Larry Myers**, 509th MXS, and **Misti Rude**, 509th LRS,

**Master Sgts. Peter Mere**, 509th BW, **Gary Schnur**, 509th LRS, and **Michael Walbom**, 509th MXS,

**Senior Master Sgts. Patrick Rodriguez**, 509th BW, and **John Vassallo**, 509th BW, and

**Chief Master Sgt. John Little**, 509th CES.



Photo by Senior Airman Nick Martin

## AWANA learn

**Capt. Dave Williamson**, 325th Bomb Squadron member and an Approved Workers Are Not Ashamed volunteer, helps **Tommy Woods** study a verse from the Bible. Awana is a chapel-sponsored program geared toward enriching the lives of children through Bible study, counseling and games.



Courtesy photos

## Honorable tradition

(Above) **Capt. Rob Southerland**, 393rd Bomb Squadron, lights the candle at the POW/Missing in Action table at the Spirit Flight Order of Daedalians meeting. (Top Right) **Lt. Col. Tom Bussiere**, 509th Bomb Wing, recognizes **Capt. Rob Southerland**, 393rd Bomb Squadron, **Col. Curtiss Petrek**, 509th Operations Group, and **1st Lt. Jason Ellis**, 394th Combat Training Squadron, as the newest members of the group during the January meeting. (Right) **Sgt. Bill Templeton**, a Bataan Death March survivor, talks at the monthly Spirit Flight Order of Daedalians. Sergeant



**Templeton** was a prisoner of war for 3 1/2 years. The Order of Daedalians was formed by World War I pilots who left the military but wanted to maintain friendships and camaraderie. For more details, call **Maj. Paul Tibbets**, 325th BS, at 687-2919.

# An Air Force look at sexual assault

An Air Combat Command team visited Whiteman March 15-16 to assess the effectiveness of our programs to prevent and deal with sexual assault instances. This ACC visit is part of an Air Force-wide look at these programs and isn't due to any perceived trends here.

It does, however, reinforce the fact that our leaders have no tolerance for such behavior. Airmen deserve equal respect and dignity here. We have many resources to ensure this is in place.

What is sexual assault? Sexual assault is a sexual act committed without the lawful consent of the victim.

Where do I report an incident of sexual assault? If you are a sexual assault victim, call the 509th Security Forces Squadron Law Enforcement Desk at 687-3700 or 911.

What services are available to victims of sexual assault?

✓ **Victim/Witness Assistance Program:** The VWAP is a program aimed at reducing the physical, psychological and financial hardships suffered by victims and witnesses of crimes investigated by Air Force authorities. The VWAP fosters victims' and witnesses' cooperation within the military criminal justice system and strives to ensure victims' and witnesses' rights are met.

The VWAP is managed by Capt. Adam Slaughter and Shelly Hilliker, 509th Bomb Wing Legal Office. If you have been victimized or have witnessed any crime call Security Forces to report the incident. Then call the Whiteman Legal Office at 687-6809.

The following services are available to you if you are a victim or witness to a crime:

✓ **Medical treatment:** For emergency medical treatment, go to the nearest emergency room. You may also seek medical treatment at the 509th Medical Group Clinic. Call 563-9100 to schedule an appointment.

✓ **Counseling:** Counseling services and referrals to civilian providers are available at the life skills support center. The Family Support Center also offers counseling and referrals.

✓ **Religious counseling:** Call the chaplain's office at 687-3652.

✓ **Local civilian agencies:** The Lighthouse is a violence prevention and intervention center at Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg, Mo. You may receive confidential counseling and referral services through The Lighthouse which can be reached at 660-543-8338.

The Sedalia Safe House offers protection for victims of domestic violence, to include sexual assault. You can call them at 660-543-8084.

The Missouri Crime Victims' Compensation agency is a resource that provides financial benefits to eligible victims of violent crimes such as domestic and sexual abuse. This agency may be reached at 1-800-347-6881.

This list is only a few of the civilian services available in this area. For information on other available services, call Captain Slaughter at 687-6809 or the FSC at 687-7132.

As the Air Force takes a wider look at sexual assault, Whiteman is doing its part to make you aware of the programs available to you as a victim or witness to any crime. *(Courtesy of the 509th BW Legal Office.)*

# This space is reserved for ads

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

# 72nd TES member appreciates life's journey

## Continuing the LEGACY

By Airman 1st Class Joe Lacdan  
Public Affairs

Remaining in the Air Force may have been Michael Bucher's destiny.

After six years working as a T-38, F-15 and FB-111A crew chief, he chose to become a civilian and pursue his educational goals.

But after attending a job fair in Oklahoma City, he met a recruiter and 18 months later he re-entered active duty as a commissioned officer. He attended Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base Ala.

"It was a good decision," Captain Bucher said. "I've enjoyed everything I've done in the Air Force."

At the time, Captain Bucher worked as an actuary for an insurance company in Oklahoma.

Raised by a retired Air Force master sergeant, Captain Bucher grew up in the Air Force and enlisted in the service after graduating from high school. After his six years in the service he attended Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, Okla. where he graduated with a degree in mathematics and a minor in German.

Today he is the 72nd TES' senior analyst and plans manager. He's responsible for coordinating test activities, resources and interfacing with out-

side agencies.

Off duty, he and his wife enjoy traveling and bicycle riding on their tandems. The 37-year-old also has a rare hobby. Captain Bucher and his wife, Heatherly, raise alpacas on their 10-acre lot.

Alpacas, native to South America, are close relatives of llamas but are half the size and are raised for their fine fiber. The Buchers currently have 14 Alpacas on their property. The Buchers shear and collect the fiber annually and then they sell and market the fiber and animals as a business.

"They're fun animals to work with," Captain Bucher said.

While Captain Bucher's unique pets have roots in South America, his daughter MeiLin's, roots are even farther away.

In 2002, the Buchers traveled to China to adopt a Chinese girl. Captain Bucher said the experience was eye-opening. After 13 years of marriage MeiLin is the couple's first child.

"It was a highly emotional and memorable experience," said Captain Bucher. "It's hard to believe this child is ours. It actually took us awhile to get to the point to say this is really our daughter."

The Buchers plan to return to China in December to adopt their second child.



Courtesy photo

**Capt. Michael Bucher, 72nd Test and Evaluation Squadron, and his daughter, MeiLin, share a moment at Powell Gardens in Kingsville, Mo. Captain Bucher and his wife, Heatherly, adopted the child from China.**

# This space is reserved for advertisements



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tia Schroeder

### We have a winner

Airman 1st Class Timothy Vansant, 509th Contracting Squadron contract specialist, and contractor Randy Eckert, preview design sketches for the renovation of the cargo deployment facility March 15. Airman Vansant was named 2003's Air Force Contracting Outstanding Airman. He will receive the award April 22 at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. Nominees were evaluated on specific duty achievements during the year, self-improvement efforts and professional qualities.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Joe Lacdan

### Child care provider of the year

Col. Gary Finchum, 509th Mission Support Group commander, presented Christine Hurkmans with a plaque for being named 2004 Child Care Provider of the Year. Mrs. Hurkmans is the only FCC provider here to obtain a professional Child Development Associate national credential in October 1998. Currently with seven children in her care, Mrs. Hurkmans has also served as a mentor to new providers. Also pictured is Beverly Mendenhall, and her son, Dakota, and Lt. Col. Leslie Martin, 509th MSG deputy commander. Beverly is the spouse of Tech. Sgt. David Mendenhall, 509th Munitions Squadron, and Dakota is one the children in Mrs. Hurkmans' care.



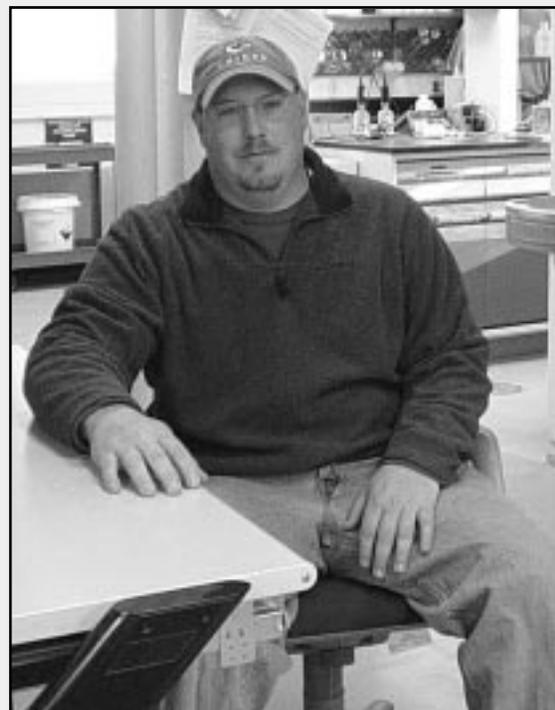
Courtesy photo

### 509er visits congressman

Congressman Ike Skelton met with Jamie Jennings, 509th Services Squadron marketing director, March 4 in Washington, D.C. During her visit she learned about his job and attended a congressional meeting with him.

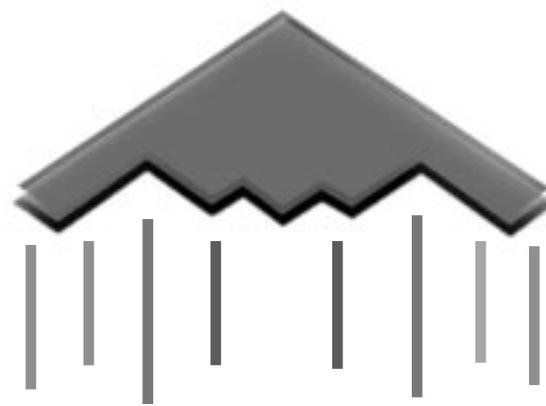
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## Civilian employee of the week

Chris Wallen was nominated for this award by Scott Lewellyn, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron. Mr. Wallen is a utilities systems technician assigned to the 509th CES. "Chris has worked the midshift at the wastewater treatment plant and has been a dedicated worker on that shift," Mr. Lewellyn said. "He shows his Whiteman attitude off base and volunteers to help airmen in the shop with off-duty projects."

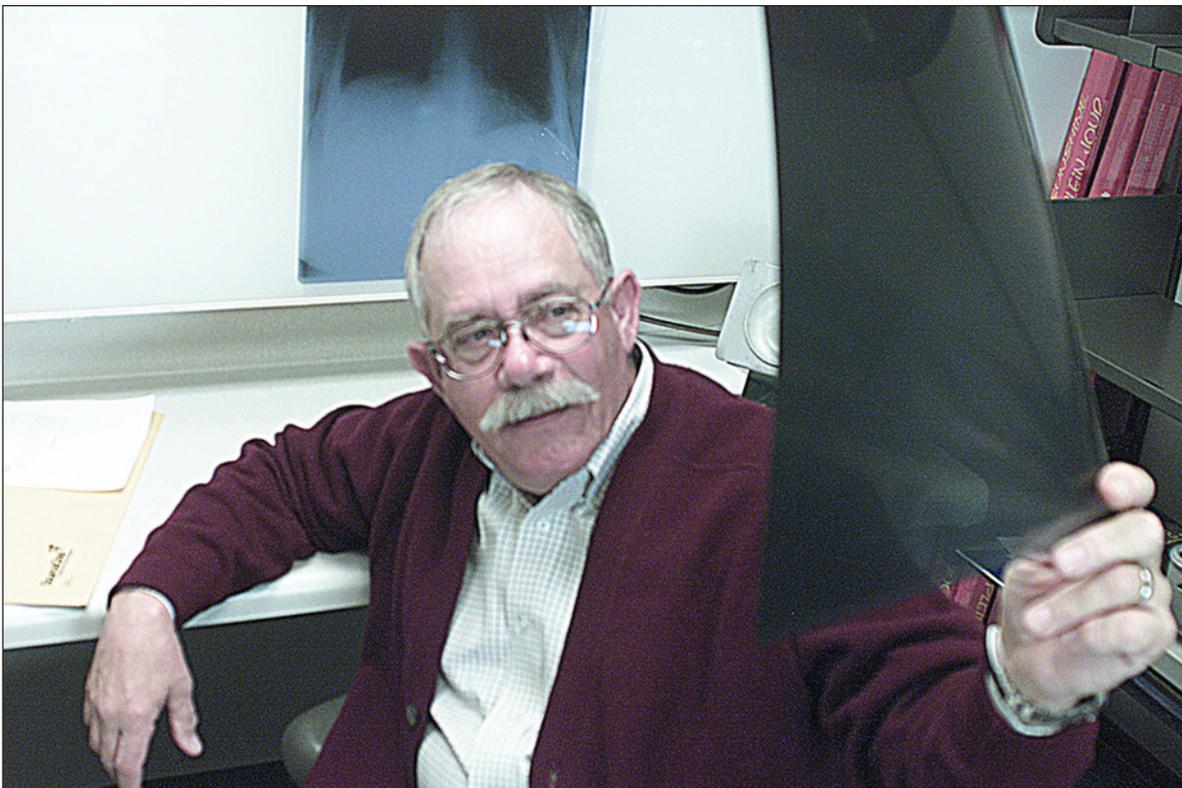


## Spirit Spotlights

... on Staff Sgt. Mason Still, 509th Security Forces Squadron, Senior Airmen Dustin Hahn, 509th Maintenance Squadron, and Emou Kablan, 509th Services Squadron, and Airmen 1st Class Virgil Bass, 509th Munitions Squadron, John Burgess, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron, Derek Comford, 509th MUNS, Theodore Feldhacker, 509th CES, William Knight, 509th CES, Brian Perez, 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and Trevor Stephens, 509th CES, for scoring a 90 percent or above on their career development course test in January.

... on Staff Sgts. Catherine Coats, 509th Comptroller Squadron, and Jonathan Owens, 509th CES, Senior Airmen Kenneth Rains, 509th SFS, and Sherry York, 509th Medical Group, Airmen 1st Class Joshua Kulinski, 509th CES, Ebonee Lane, 509th SVS, Tony Layrock, 509th MUNS, Stephen Myers, 509th AMXS, Joshua Runkles, 509th MUNS, and Gabriel Winters, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron, and Airman Ryan Patterson, 509th CES, for scoring a 90 percent or above on their CDC test in February.

... on Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Thomas, 509th SVS, Staff Sgts. Thomas Delapp and Adam Post, 509th AMXS, Senior Airmen Daniel Graham, 509th AMXS, and Hans Umhoefer, 509th Medical Support Squadron, and Airmen 1st Class Yasir Ali, 509th Medical Operations Squadron, Melissa Bocado, 509th MUNS, Sheridan Click, 509th CES, Kyle Davis, 509th AMXS, Brandon Kane, 509th MUNS, Jason Saari, 509th CES, Trevor Sansom, 509th CES, and Thomas Williamson, 509th AMXS, for scoring a 90 percent or above on their CDC test in March.



Dr. John Cecil, 509th Medical Group radiologist, examines a patient's X-ray. The 509th MedGp X-ray department helps more than 200 patients per week.

## What's up, Doc?

March 30 — National Doctor's Day — set aside for honoring the healers



Maj. Howard Loar, 509th Medical Group primary care nurse, reviews safe crutch procedures with Capt. Heather Land, 509th MedGp. Patient education is performed to ensure people undergoing treatment have the knowledge to aid in their own recovery.

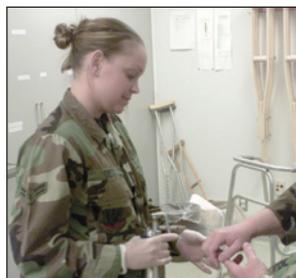


Photos by Senior Airman Nick Martin

Capt. (Dr.) Mary Pat Friedlander, 509th Medical Group primary care physician, uses an otoscope to examine the inner ear of Barbara Sparks. The 509th MedGp family practice physicians each help up to 40 patients per day.



Capt. (Dr.) Michelle Phillips, 509th Medical Group primary care physician, checks a patient's X-rays.



Airman 1st Class Lauren Dietz, 509th Medical Group, performs a cryo treatment on a patient's hand. Airman Dietz is a medical services craftsman qualified to help doctors with routine procedures.

### The History of Doctor's Day

✓ Dr. Crawford Long, Burrow County Ga., used ether on a patient while removing a tumor from the patient's neck March 30, 1842.

✓ The first Doctor's Day was observed March 30, 1933, in Winder Ga., to commemorate Doctor Long's historic procedure labeling it the first time general anesthetics were used during surgery. Winder Ga., community members celebrated the day by mailing cards to doctors and their spouses and placing flowers on the graves of deceased doctors.

✓ On March 30, 1990, recognizing society owes a debt of gratitude to physicians for their contributions to science and their compassion fighting disease and their efforts to ease human suffering, the U.S. House of Representatives adopted Resolution 336 setting aside the day as Doctor's Day.



Maj. (Dr.) Corey Lewis, 509th Medical Group primary care physician, uses a stethoscope to listen to Staff Sgt. Antony Grinel's lungs. Sergeant Grinel is a member of the 509th Maintenance Squadron.

## Whiteman Spirit Award



**Staff Sgt. Maria Reyes-Witak**  
72nd Test and Evaluation Squadron

Staff Sgt. Maria Reyes-Witak, 72nd Test and Evaluation Squadron, received the Whiteman Spirit Award from Col. Ned Schoeck, 509th Bomb Wing vice commander,

Monday.

Lt. Col. Britton Bankson, 72nd TES commander, nominated her for the award. "At a luncheon in Kansas City, Mo., Sergeant Reyes-Witak noticed that one woman at her table was in distress and had something lodged in her throat, Colonel Bankson said.

The object was lodged farther back in her throat, completely cutting off her airway, as a result of others trying to help the woman by patting her on the back, Colonel Bankson said.

"Realizing the woman could no longer breathe, Sergeant Reyes-Witak went into action and performed the Heimlich Maneuver several times until the obstruction was dislodged," Colonel Bankson said. "Sergeant Reyes-Witak saved that woman's life and set a great example for the local community on what the military is about."

### Personally Speaking

**Duty title:** NCO in charge of personnel

**Time on station:** 3 years

**Time in service:** 10 years, 9 months

**Hometown:** Delicias, Chihuahua, Mexico.

**Spouse:** Staff Sgt. Anthony Witak, 509th Mission Sup-

port Squadron

**Children:** Alberto, 8

**Hobbies:** Collecting porcelain dolls and making crafts.  
**Goals:** To make technical sergeant and to finish my associate's degree.

**Best thing about Whiteman:** The 72nd Test and Evaluation Squadron's morale.

**Pet peeves:** Tardiness and bending the rules.

**What motivates your winning spirit?** My husband and son.

**If you could change one thing at Whiteman, what would it be?** The weather. I would make it hotter.

### 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](mailto:whiteman.spirit@Whiteman.af.mil).

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## Spotlight on justice

In February, 13 people received Articles 15 and five people were discharged.

### Articles 15

An airman first class from the 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron received an Article 15 for making a false official statement and destruction of military property worth \$500 or less. The punishment was suspended reduction to airman basic, suspended forfeiture of \$200 pay, restriction to base for 45 days and 45 days extra duty.

A senior airman from the 509th Security Forces Squadron received an Article 15 for dereliction of duty and making a false official statement. The punishment was reduction to airman first class, suspended forfeiture of \$200 pay per month for two months and 30 days extra duty.

A senior airman from the 509th SFS received an Article 15 for failure to go. The punishment was reduction to airman first class, forfeiture of \$150 pay per month for two months and 30 days extra duty.

An airman first class from the 509th Communications Squadron received an Article 15 for drug abuse. The punishment was reduction to airman basic, suspended forfeiture of \$596 pay per month for two months, restriction to base for 30 days and 30 days extra duty.

A staff sergeant from the 509th Civil Engineer Squadron received an Article 15 for dereliction of duty and making a false or fraudulent claim. The punishment was reduction to senior airman, suspended forfeiture of \$945 pay per month for two months and 30 days extra duty.

A staff sergeant from the 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron received an Article 15 for writing fraudulent checks and failing to maintain funds. The punishment was reduction to senior airman.

A senior airman from the 509th Maintenance Squadron received an Article 15 for drug abuse. The punishment was reduction to airman basic and 45 days extra duty.

An airman first class from the 509th Operations Support Squadron received an Article 15 for dereliction of duty. The punishment was suspended reduction to airman and forfeiture of \$100 pay for two months.

An airman from the 509th SFS received an Article 15 for failing to obey a lawful order and failing to pay a debt. The punishment was reduction to airman basic and 30 days extra duty.

A technical sergeant from the 509th AMXS received an Article 15 for dereliction of duty. The punishment was reduction to staff sergeant, forfeiture of \$300 pay per month for two months and a reprimand.

An airman from the 509th CES received an Article 15 for failure to go. The punishment was reduction to airman basic.

An airman first class from the 509th AMXS received an Article 15 for disrespecting an NCO. The punishment was suspended reduction to airman.

An airman first class from the 509th SFS received an Article 15 for dereliction of duty and signing a false official statement. The punishment was suspended reduction to airman, forfeiture of \$200 pay per month for two months, restriction to base for 30 days and 30 days extra duty.

### Discharges

A senior airman from the 509th AMXS received a general discharge for a pattern of misconduct.

An airman first class from the 509th SFS received an honorable discharge for drug abuse.

An airman basic from the 509th MXS received a general discharge for drug abuse.

An airman first class from the 509th CS received a general discharge for drug abuse.

An airman basic from the 509th AMXS received a general discharge for a pattern of misconduct.

Got news?

Call

687-6133

## What's happening

### Special duty opportunity available

The Air Force Personnel Center seeks, senior master sergeants and below to perform postal duty worldwide. Tour lengths vary depending on the location and retraining isn't necessary. Short-tour opportunities are available. For more details or to apply, log onto <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/enlisted/TOPIC%20Postal%20Duty%20Info.htm>

### Class helps battle depression

A depression management class begins at 8:30 a.m. Mondays. This is a four-session workshop designed for people who are experiencing depressed moods. Participants learn how to identify their pattern of depression, reactivate themselves, adopt a healthy lifestyle and improve their interpersonal relationships. For more details, call the life skills support center at 687-4340.

### Reserve opportunities available

The Air Force Reserve offers opportunities to people separating from active duty. The reserve offers most active-duty benefits, pay and retirement. For more details, call Master Sgt. Kim Halstead at 687-6483.

### Anxiety management class set

An anxiety management class begins at 8:30 a.m. Tuesdays. This four-session workshop focuses upon learning a set of skills for effective management of anxiety. This program requires a willingness to break old habits and to do some things differently. Each session is packed with information that is practical, informative and helpful. For more details, call the life skills support center at 687-4340.

## Family Support

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

### WIC representative visits base

A WIC representative is available beginning at 8:30 a.m. 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 at 660-747-2012.

### Sponsor class offered

A class for those interested in sponsoring new base members begins at 1 p.m. Thursday. Call for more details.

## Menus

### Knob Noster Elementary School

- Monday:** Shrimp shapes, macaroni and cheese, salad and fruit cocktail  
**Tuesday:** Chicken nuggets, spinach, apple and a cookie  
**Wednesday:** Chicken-fried beef steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, beets and a roll  
**Thursday:** Chicken and rice, peas, apple, Jell-O and a roll  
**Friday:** Ravioli, salad, broccoli and a banana

### Whiteman Elementary School

- Monday:** Barbecued meatballs, baked potato, green beans and fruit  
**Tuesday:** Chicken-fried pork, carrots, salad and yogurt  
**Wednesday:** Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn, fruit and a roll  
**Thursday:** Pizza, salad, peas and fruit cobbler  
**Friday:** Chicken patty on bun, broccoli, fruit and cake

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## Chapel Corner

### Catholic

*Mass* — 5 p.m. Saturdays; 10:45 a.m. Sundays; and 11:30 a.m. weekdays  
*Confessions* — 4:30 p.m. Saturdays and upon request  
*CCD* — 9 a.m. Sundays

### Protestant

*General worship* — 9 a.m. Sundays  
*Gospel* — 12:45 p.m. Sundays  
*Communion* — 8:45 a.m. Sundays  
*Sunday School* — 10:45 a.m. Sundays  
*AWANA Kids* — 6 p.m. Tuesdays

## Lent reconciliation service

A Lenten reconciliation service begins at 7 p.m. Tuesday. Make preparations for Holy Week and Easter by setting aside this time to make a complete and humble confession. Five priests will be available for absolution, forgiveness, peace of mind, and heart and soul. For more details, call the chapel at 687-3652.

**You can never B-2 safe!**



Courtesy photo

### 509er appears on ESPN

Maj. Sam White, 393rd Bomb Squadron, talks with ESPN's Kit Hoover on the sports talk show "Cold Pizza," which aired March 19. The show featured military members who are former National Collegiate Athletics Association Division I athletes and participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Major White, a B-2 pilot, is a former member of the Air Force Academy's track and field team. Also pictured is Edwin Powell, United Services Organization chief executive officer.

## Extramural volleyball teams clash on court



Kim Rasley, a 509th Bomb Wing/Navy extramural volleyball player, eyes the ball before serving.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Joe Lacdan

Rob Evans, a 509th Bomb Wing/Navy extramural volleyball player, tries to block the tip of Don Ware, 509th Services Squadron, Monday night. The 509th BW/Navy team won the match 16-25, 25-12 and 15-12. The 509th Comptroller Squadron beat the 509th Security Forces Squadron, 25-17, 15-25, 15-9, Monday.