



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tia Schroeder

Hey Y'all ...

BONNER SPRINGS, Kan. — Airman 1st Class Ryan Edwards, 509th Maintenance Squadron, leads the honor guard colors team down the aisle during Y'allapalooza at Verizon Wireless Amphitheater here Saturday. More than 60 Airmen, Soldiers and Marines from Whiteman Air Force Base, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and the Marine Corps Recruiting Command in Kansas City, Mo., were honored for their service during the concert. The military members marched in formation from the back of the venue, through the aisles and on stage while thousands of concert goers applauded and cheered. To see more photos from this event, turn to Page 20.

Deployed 509ers keep lines open

By Master Sgt. Andrew Gates

455th Expeditionary Operations Group Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — Deployed units rely on a steady flow of communication to accomplish the mission — computers and phones provide a vital link between organizations around the Air Force.

Equally important is making sure those computers and phones work well — especially in an environment that is not very conducive to electronics.

The task of keeping a vast communication network running for 600 Airmen deployed to Bagram Air Base falls to the communications flight team. "We support the computer network, phones and lines," said Master Sgt. Robert Dempsey, 455th Expeditionary Support Squadron. "Without some form of communication, people here couldn't get the orders they need to complete their mission."

After nearly three years of deployed operations, much of the equipment on base is the same as on a traditional base. "For the most part, the entire infrastructure is fiber (optic cable) or Cat-5 (computer network cable). There is some tactical equipment, but another organization maintains it." Tactical communications equipment is usually used in the first networks built in a deployed theater, providing basic communications capabilities.

The job here is somewhat different from what the communications Airmen are used to, said Sergeant Dempsey,

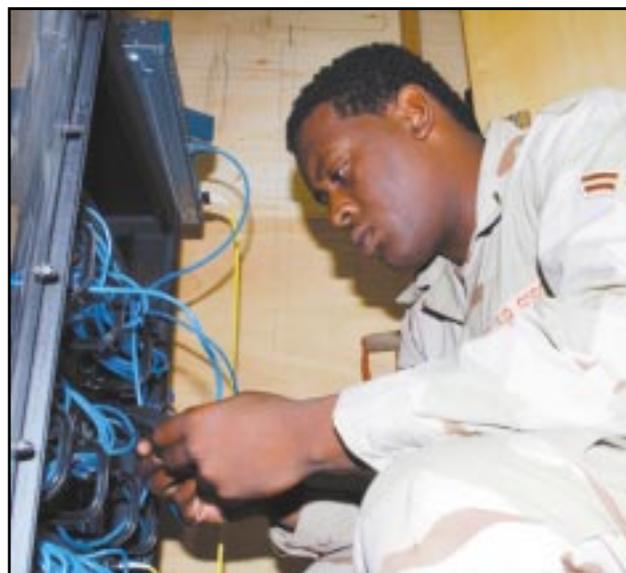


Photo by Master Sgt. Andrew Gates

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — Airman 1st Class Demetrill Newman conducts a line test on a computer port at Bagram Air Base. Airman Newman, an information manager, doesn't normally get involved in the technical side of the computer network.

See **DEPLOYED**, Page 18

NORI Countdown 57 days

Red Carpet Rollout

Dr. William Winkenwerder

Assistant Secretary of Defense of Health Affairs

Lt. Gen. George Taylor

Air Force Command Surgeon

Brig. Gen. Russell Kilpatrick

ACC Command Surgeon

News in Brief

Med Gp announces closures

The 509th Medical Group clinic will close at noon today for training.

The 509th Med Gp will be closed Sept. 3 for the Air Combat Command family day. In case of an emergency, call 911.

Limited CPF service Wednesday

The Civilian Personnel Flight will have limited service from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday, for staff professional development. Leave messages at 687-6475. Calls will be returned when the staff returns.

Public affairs announces changes

Due to the Air Combat Command Family Day and the Labor Day weekend, the deadline for article and classified ad submissions to the *Whiteman Spirit* is noon Thursday. For more details, call 687-6133.

The *Whiteman Spirit* staff will temporarily relocate Sept. 7 to the Professional Development Course building until further notice. The remainder of the public affairs office will also relocate to the PDC beginning Sept. 13 until further notice. For more details, call 687-6123.

Steam plant closes for upgrades

The steam plant will be closed 6:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Sept. 3. The shutdown is part of a project to replace three older boilers with new, more efficient ones. Due to the short duration of the shutdown and the time of year, most facilities won't notice the shutdown. However, facilities that use large amounts of steam could be impacted. For more details, call 687-2533.

myPay improvements made

New improvements to myPay begin in September. As a secure, user-friendly Web-based system, myPay provides self-management of your pay.

To obtain a personal identification number, members may fill out an online request at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>, send an e-mail to mypay@whiteman.af.mil, or visit the finance office in Bldg. 509, Room 115 A. Customer service remains available to assist members if they need help or for services not yet available on myPay.

For more details, visit finance customer service, e-mail 509cpts.fcs@whiteman.af.mil or call 687-4810.

Teamwork: one team, one fight

By Lt. Col. Steven Basham
393rd Bomb Squadron Commander

As I prepared to take command of the 393rd Bomb Squadron, I was amazed at their many accomplishments. From helping to bring World War II to a close in 1945 to standing up the first B-2 squadron in 1993, the Tigers were always ready when called upon. In more recent years, they have taken the B-2 into combat three times and emerged each time with great success. However, it was clear they were not alone.

The many accomplishments of the 393rd, as well as all squadrons in the 509th, are but a reflection of the teamwork of all who are committed to the success of the wing's mission. Andrew Carnegie said, "Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. (It is) the ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."

These words are exemplified by

the teamwork in the 509th Bomb Wing, which has led to uncommon results.

I recently attended the Maintenance Course for Operational Commanders at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas and gained greater appreciation for the teamwork within the wing. Not only do they have the time-consuming task of meeting the daily flying schedule, but also the enormous task of juggling the many inspections, time-compliant technical order changes and training. An even greater take-away from the course was how much I didn't know about another organization's day to day operations.

We often say "One team, one fight." However, we are many teams coming together as one team for one mission. We have our separate functions or playbooks. It's difficult enough to know our own playbook much less learn every other team's. Therefore, we must trust each other with open minds. We must look for ways in which our

individual team can help the next to achieve its missions. Likewise, we must be willing to ask for help.

In order to continue this track record of phenomenal accomplishments in the 509th, each of us must work together as a team inside and outside our organizations for a common vision. If one team wins while others fail, the whole team loses. Therefore, it's important that we stand side-by-side to help a team up when it stumbles. One organization should not seek individual glory at the expense of others. Instead, they should strive to thrust accolades on each other to continually push the whole team forward.

I ask myself what I can do to ensure the 393rd BS continues the successes garnered to date. The answer I keep coming up with is to continue to be a part of the bigger team. We will achieve our individual mission when the 509th achieves its overall mission. Although we are many teams, to achieve success we must come together as one team for one fight.



Courtesy Photo

Lt. Col. Steven Basham, 393rd Bomb Squadron commander, is handed his B-2 Spirit coin by Staff Sgt. Jason Manning, 393rd BS, after returning from a sortie during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Sergeant Manning held Colonel Basham's coin for safe keeping.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Ryan Wilson

Ron Finnell finds an illegal switch blade while performing a vehicle search. Mr. Finnell is from Sedalia, Mo. and is currently a contracted civilian security officer with the 509th Security Forces Squadron. He is one of more than 30 contractors who help keep Whiteman secure.

'Eagle eyes' counter terrorism

By Special Agents Mark Ferrero and Scott Pierce

Air Force Office of Special Investigations
Det. 207

Only you know who or what belongs or doesn't belong in your building, neighborhood or work center. This continues to be the pillar of one of our most important and effective antiterrorism initiatives, Eagle Eyes.

The Eagle Eyes program is modeled after British and Israeli authorities, who have significant experience dealing with urban terrorism. They make it their business to pay attention to small things which, in combination, give them a view of the bigger picture.

Eagle Eyes is the Air Force's model for doing just that. The simple act of recognizing suspicious behavior and reporting it could thwart terrorist acts and save lives. But it begins at the local level, where terrorists conduct operational planning activities.

Every terrorist operation is preceded by events that people must recognize and report. Terrorist acts don't just happen. They're carefully planned and rehearsed many times in advance.

The key to combating terrorism starts with public awareness. Know what to look

for and take note of suspicious activity on and off base. To detect and prevent an act of terrorism in our community, remain alert and report strange of out of the ordinary activities.

The more eyes and ears that are on the lookout for suspicious activity, the more difficult it is for terrorists to act. Reportable activities are classified into seven broad categories:

SURVEILLANCE — Someone recording or monitoring activities. This includes cameras, note taking, drawing diagrams, annotating on maps, and using binoculars or other vision-enhancing devices.

ELICITATION — People or organizations attempting to gain information about military operations, capabilities or people. Attempts may be made by mail, fax, telephone or in person.

TESTS OF SECURITY — Attempts to measure reaction times to security breaches, or to penetrate physical security barriers or procedures in order to assess strengths and weaknesses.

ACQUIRING SUPPLIES — Purchasing or stealing explosives, weapons, ammunition, etc. This includes acquiring military uniforms, decals, flight manuals, passes or badges, and other controlled items.

SUSPICIOUS PERSONS OUT OF PLACE — People who don't seem to belong in the workplace, neighborhood, business establishment or elsewhere. This includes suspicious border crossings and stowaways aboard ship, or people jumping ship in port.

DRY RUN — Putting people into position and practicing the terrorist act before committing it. This is common when planning a kidnapping, but can also pertain to bombings.

An element of this activity may include mapping out routes, and determining the timing of traffic lights and flow.

DEPLOYING ASSETS — Putting people and supplies into position to commit the act. This is the last chance to alert authorities before the terrorist act occurs.

Don't be gun-shy about reporting incidents that may turn out to be innocent behavior. That's bound to happen from time to time, but you don't know if it's innocent until you report it and have it checked out. When lives are at stake, it's better to be safe than sorry.

Your call could make the difference. The bottom line: if something bothers you or doesn't seem right, report it!

For more details about the Eagle Eyes program, call Det. 207, Air Force office of special investigations at 687-1852.

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edited, prepared and provided by the Office of Public Affairs of the 509th Bomb Wing, Whiteman AFB, Mo. All photos in the *Whiteman Spirit* are official U.S. Air Force photos, unless otherwise noted. The Services Page is a supplement to the *Whiteman Spirit* and is provided by the 509th Services Squadron.

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

Bush nominates new COMACC

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (ACCNS) — The secretary of defense announced Aug. 19 that President Bush has nominated Lt. Gen. Ronald E. Keys, Deputy Chief of Staff, Air and Space Operations, Headquarters United States Air Force, for appointment to the rank of general and assignment as commander, Air Combat Command, headquartered here.



Pending Senate confirmation of his promotion and reassignment, General Keys will replace Gen. Hal M. Hornburg, who is scheduled to retire Jan. 1, 2005. General Hornburg took command of ACC Nov. 14, 2001, and led the command's support of operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

In his role at the Pentagon, General Keys is responsible for formulating policy supporting air, space, intelligence, nuclear, counter-proliferation, homeland security, weather and information operations. As the Air Force operations deputy to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, he determines operational requirements, capabilities and training necessary to support national security objectives and military strategy. A distinguished graduate of Kansas State University's ROTC program, General Keys was commissioned in 1967.

Air Combat Command is one of nine major commands of the U.S. Air Force and is the primary force provider of combat airpower to America's warfighting commands. To support global implementation of national security strategy, ACC operates more than 1,200 aircraft, 25 wings, 16 bases and more than 200 operating locations worldwide with 176,000 active-duty, air reserve component, and civilian personnel.



2nd Lt. Mary Olsen

Come and get it!

Staff Sgt. Rudy Skultety, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron, is served at Ozark Inn by Master Sgt. Darlene Buss, 509th Mission Support Squadron first sergeant. A ribbon cutting Monday celebrated the dining hall's grand opening after nearly three-and-a-half months of renovations. First sergeants served food to customers and new vendors handed out food samples. Weekday dining hours are 6-8 a.m., breakfast; 11 a.m.-1 p.m., lunch and 4:30-8 p.m., dinner. Weekend hours are 7 a.m.-12:30 p.m., lunch and 6-8 p.m., dinner. For more details, call 687-5469.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Mary Olsen

Crosswalk guard Laura Blaszczyk holds traffic for a group of pedestrians crossing Spirit Boulevard. Drivers are reminded to be extra cautious around crosswalks.

School safety tips shared

The 509th Bomb Wing safety office would like to remind everyone that the school year was starting up again. Whiteman members are reminded to be extra careful in or around crosswalk areas and around children walking or riding to and from school.

The five miles per hour speed limit applies around any areas where children are present.

Anytime a school bus is stopped and has flashing lights or stop arm extended for the purpose of loading or unloading passengers, all approaching traffic in either direction must stop.

Vehicles are not authorized to proceed until the bus resumes motion or signaled by the bus driver to do so. Be especially careful on county roads, buses may stop with little warning.

When riding the bus

- ✓ Remain seated
- ✓ Keep the aisle clear
- ✓ Talk quietly and not at all at railroad crossings
- ✓ Know emergency evacuation procedures

Bicycling to school

- ✓ An American National Safety Institute approved bicycle helmet is required for all personnel who ride a bicycle on an Air Force installation.
- ✓ Bicyclists are required to obey all Whiteman Air Force Base traffic laws in accordance with WAFB Traffic Safety Code, WAFB Instruction 31-204. (Courtesy of the 509th Ground Safety Office)

'Tongue and Quill' now available online

By Carl Bergquist
Air University Public Affairs

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. (AFP) — What started as a research paper here nearly 30 years ago has become the Air Force's leading reference on writing and speaking.

In 1975, Air Command and Staff College student, Maj. Hank Staley, submitted as his research paper the first version of what is now "The Tongue and Quill."

The latest revision of the handbook is now available online, said Sharon McBride, an ACSC writer and editor who headed the revision effort. A hardcopy version will not be published.

"School officials liked the work so well they continued using the paper as a course study project," she said. "Within a couple of years, the Air Force decided the 'T and Q' was valuable as an all-encompassing guide for the Department of Defense, and because it was born here, it stayed here."

For the most part, the 2004 edition retains most of the writing and speaking tips of past editions. Revisions include improved organization of the information, a rearranged layout, updated quotes, art and word lists, and new information on writing and speaking such as persuasive communications, meetings, briefings and electronic communications.

Many changes came from reader feedback and from talking with people who do a lot of writing and public speaking, Ms. McBride said.

"I often get e-mails and feedback sheets from people saying, 'Sharon, we aren't doing it that way anymore,'" she said. "I encourage customers to use the feedback sheet found in the book to make suggestions that will help us produce a better product in the future."

Ms. McBride and a team of researchers in the department of communications studies at ACSC started work on the revision in 2000. The last version of "The Tongue and Quill," known formally as Air Force Handbook 33-337, was published in 1997 with 100,000 printed copies. The next revision is scheduled for 2007.

The current edition is available online at the Air Force Publications Web site at www.e-publishing.af.mil. (Courtesy of Air Education and Training Command News Service)

Overseas AF study apps offered

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The Air Force is offering the opportunity for three officers to study overseas for two years through the Olmsted Scholar Program. Those selected will begin study for the 2005-2006 school year.

The program provides participants with an in-depth understanding of a foreign language and culture so they will be knowledgeable and sensitive to the viewpoints and concerns of people around the world as they progress within their Air Force career.

The program involves cultural immersion by an officer and their family (if applicable), as well as study at a university in the native language. Officials are selecting officers with demonstrated leadership and scholastic abilities.

Applicants must be a regular or Reserve line officer on active-duty with between three and 11 years of commissioned service, and no more than 11 years' total service by April 1, 2005. Officers must have at least a 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale for their undergraduate degree. They must have achieved at least a 550 on each portion (verbal and quantitative) on the Graduate Record Examination. Finally, they must have scored at least a 110 on the Defense Language Aptitude Battery.

All applications must arrive here by Oct. 15. Applicants should send completed applications to the following address: HQ AFPC/DPAPE, 550 C Street West, Ste 32, Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4734.

For more information, visit the local MPF or the Officer Developmental Education web site at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/pme/0-Olmsted.htm>.

EQUAL listing available

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The Enlisted Quarterly Assignment Listing for April to June 2005 overseas requirements is now available.

Individuals need to work through their military personnel flights to update their preferences by Aug. 19. Airmen will be notified of their selection by mid-September.

EQUAL advertises upcoming assignment requirements, by Air Force Specialty Code and rank. Members are instructed to review, prioritize and update their assignment preferences based on the EQUAL list.

People can view the lists on the Air Force Personnel Center home page at <https://afas.afpc.randolph.af.mil/amsweb/master.cfm> or at local MPFs.

Those on temporary duty during the advertising period can contact the nearest personnel office for assistance. (Courtesy of AFPC News Service)



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Photo by 2nd Lt. Mary Olsen

The 509th Security Forces Squadron held a picnic for deploying members and their families Aug. 20 at Skelton Park.

Families maintain strength at home

(Editor's Note: Ben Stein, a television personality and writer, is co-author with Phil DeMuth of "Can America Survive," forthcoming from Hay House. Mr. Stein served as a speechwriter for Presidents Nixon and Ford. He's well-known for his role as the teacher in the movie "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" and as the host of the Comedy Central quiz show, "Win Ben Stein's Money." Reprinted with permission from Mr. Stein.)

By Ben Stein

This is a letter I wrote to the newsletter of an Army unit, called The Strykers stationed in Iraq out of Ft. Lewis, Wash. The editor asked me what I would say to make the wives feel appreciated while their husbands are in Iraq. This is what I wrote to one soldier's wife.

Dear Karen,

I have a great life. I have a wife I adore, a son who is a lazy teenager but I adore him, too. We live in a house with two dogs and four cats. We live in peace. We can worship as we please. We can say what we want. We can walk the streets in safety. We can vote. We can work wherever we want and buy whatever we want. When we sleep, we sleep in peace. When we wake up, it is to the sounds of birds.

All of this, every bit of it, is thanks to your husband, his brave fellow soldiers, and to the wives who keep the home fires burning while the soldiers are away protecting my family and 140 million other families. They protect Republicans and Democrats, Christians, Jews, Muslims and atheists. They protect white, black, yellow, brown and everyone in between. They protect gays and straights, rich and poor.

And none of it could happen without the Army wives, Marine wives, Navy wives, Air Force wives — or husbands — who go to sleep tired and lonely, wake up tired and lonely, and go through the day with a smile on their faces. They feed the kids, put up with the teenagers' surliness, the bills that never stop piling up, the desperate hours when the plumbing breaks and there is no husband to fix it, and the even more desperate hours after the kids have gone to bed, the dishes have been done, the bills have been paid, and the wives realize that they will be sleeping alone — again, for the 300th night in a row.

The wives keep up the fight even when they have to move every couple of years, even when their checks are late, even when they have to make a whole new set of friends every time they move.

And they keep up the fight to keep the family whole even when they feel a lump of dread every time they turn on the news, every time they switch on the computer, every time the phone rings and every time — worst of all — the doorbell rings. Every one of those events — which might mean a baseball score or a weather forecast or a FedEx man to me and my wife — might mean the news that the man they love, the man they have married for better or worse, for richer and for poorer, in sickness and in health, is now parted from them forever.

These women will never be on the cover of People. They will never be on the tabloid shows on TV about movie stars. But they are the power and the strength that keep America going. Without them, we are nothing at all. With them, we can do everything.

They are the glue that holds the nation together, stronger than politicians, stronger than talking heads, stronger than al Qaeda.

They deserve all the honor and love a nation can give. They have my prayers, and my wife's, every morning and every night.

Love, and I do mean Love, Ben.



Photo by Melissa Klinkner

Airman 1st Class Rachel Hoyt, 509th Maintenance Squadron, renders a salute while performing honor guard duties.

Mechanic jets full-speed toward future

*Continuing
the* LEGACY

By Melissa Klinkner

Public Affairs

“A future chief for sure.”

This is how Airman 1st Class Rachel Hoyt, 509th Maintenance Squadron, was described by her first sergeant, Master Sgt. David Morgan.

This jet engine mechanic is an above and beyond troop in her squadron, according to Sergeant Morgan. She recently achieved Below the Zone and sewed on senior airman on Aug. 18.

Airman Hoyt’s positive, determined attitude helped her attain this goal. “I felt it was well-deserved — I always try to do my best in everything I do,” she said.

She plays an active role in various base and community

activities such as organizing the POW/MIA Vigil run in 2003, which she plans to do again this year. She also volunteered her time for the Special Olympics, Moulage Team, Heartlink and is an Honor Guard member.

She said she gets enjoyment from being involved and it’s evident in her hard-working, optimistic outlook. “She is a very motivated troop who is willing to take on tough challenges and her supervision recognizes that,” Tech. Sgt. Robert Oday, 509th MXS said.

“If I see an opportunity to do something extra, I do it. Not because it’s required of me, but because I like doing it and I want to get involved and help make a difference,” Airman Hoyt said.

Her involvement in the community and her job earned her Airman of the Quarter at the squadron and group levels. She also held the Airmen’s Council vice president position of the and was the dorm council president during her time in Endeavor Hall.

See CTL, Page 15

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Riding into history

The journey begins

(Editor's Note: Senior Master Sgt. Mark Clark and 2nd Lt. Adam Sterling, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron, deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in April. This is the first in a two-part series about their ride into history as part of the U.S. Army's 2nd Platoon, 1836th Transportation Company from Kuwait to Camp Victory North in Baghdad, Iraq. The second part of the series will be titled "The road to Baghdad.")

By Master Sgt. Dee Ann Poole

Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA — Two members of the 509th Civil Engineer Squadron rode into history June 16 when Senior Master Sgt. Mark Clark and 2nd Lt. Adam Sterling, deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, fully integrated into the U.S. Army's 2nd Platoon, 1836th Transportation Company. The duo convoyed from the seaport in Kuwait to Camp Victory North in Baghdad, Iraq.

While they're not the first Air Force members — or Airmen-Soldiers — to convoy through Iraq, they were the first to have driven the monstrous Heavy Equipment Transportation System into Iraq.

Their story began at Camp Virginia, Kuwait, where they first met with the U.S. Army's 2nd Platoon, 1836th Transportation Company from Texas. Sergeant Clark and Lieutenant Sterling were part of the 732nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group rear element assigned to help Air Force CE and petroleum, oil and lubricant troops as they went through combat skills and combat convoy training before moving north to Iraq.

The 1836th TC was assigned to provide heavy weapons training and basic combat convoy skills training to the Airmen.

For a month, the 732nd and 1836th troops worked side by side forging a solid working relationship and friendships that will last a lifetime, Sergeant Clark said.

Following the training and forward movement of nearly 300 troops, it was time for the 732nd rear staff to report to its new home in Iraq.

Airmen validate training

Rather than fly in from Kuwait, Sergeant Clark and Lieutenant Sterling were members of a four-person Air Force contingent that volunteered to convoy to the Iraqi base.

Sergeant Clark said the four did this for several reasons.

One was to validate the training and provide immediate feedback to their superiors as to the effectiveness of the convoy training.

"We also wanted to see what was happening in Iraq so we could better prepare for the next round of trainees for the ground war in Iraq," Sergeant Clark said.

"From the outset, we made it clear to the leadership at the 1836th that we didn't want to just be passengers. We wanted to be fully integrated members of the convoy, so we were," the deployed first sergeant said.

This particular convoy was tasked to pick up and deliver heavy armor and artillery from the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division.

So, on June 16, Maj. Daniel McGee and Chief Master Sgt. Michael Taylor, 732nd EMSG, joined Lieutenant Sterling and Sergeant Clark as members of the 1836th TC in Kuwait.

They loaded their gear onto the monstrous HETS and left for the Kuwaiti seaport to rendezvous with the 1st Cavalry.

There, they loaded M1A1 Abrams main battle tanks, M-109 Paladin 155 mm self-propelled howitzers, and Bradley fighting vehicles onto the HETS.

Each heavy armored vehicle was chained down and secured for shipment.

Tough, dirty work

"This was tough work in dirty and hot conditions,"



Courtesy photos

The Heavy Equipment Trailer Systems convoy moved M1A1 Abrams main battle tanks, M-109 Paladin 155 mm self-propelled howitzers and Bradley fighting vehicles from Kuwait to Iraq. Senior Master Sgt. Mark Clark and 2nd Lt. Adam Sterling, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron, drove the HETS into Iraq.



Senior Master Sgt. Mark Clark drove a heavy equipment transportation system from the Kuwaiti seaport to Camp Victory North in Baghdad, Iraq. Sergeant Clark, the 509th Civil Engineer Squadron first sergeant, volunteered to drive the HETS into Iraq. He was one of four Airmen who volunteered to be convoy members so they could validate training and provide immediate feedback on the effectiveness of the convoy training.



Maj. Daniel McGee, 2nd Lt. Adam Sterling, Chief Master Sgt. Michael Taylor and Senior Master Sgt. Mark Clark validated training and provided feedback on convoy operations.

Sergeant Clark said. "The ease of which the Soldiers of the 1836th conducted this demanding work was impressive to say the least. They were eager to let the 732nd folks jump in to help."

When the equipment was loaded, the convoy headed to a Kuwaiti camp just south of the Iraqi border. There, the equipment was offloaded so the 1st Cavalry Soldiers could

prepare the equipment for combat operations. This included a full combat load of ammunition.

Upon completion, the equipment was loaded onto the HETS and the convoy was ready to move north to Iraq.

"June 16 was a long day. We began at 6 (a.m.) and ended at midnight once the last tank was loaded back on board the HETS.

"When bedtime finally arrived, the Soldiers and Airmen made themselves comfortable for the night," Sergeant Clark said.

Making themselves comfortable included sleeping on the trucks under the stars. "Believe me, when you have put in a long day of loading equipment and driving in the searing heat of Kuwait, you don't have any problems sleeping outside," the first sergeant said.

The morning of June 17 marked the day the convoy team crossed into Iraq. "We were all anxious and excited to finally be moving forward," Sergeant Clark said.

After a morning field bath with baby wipes, the Soldiers and Airmen folded up their cots and headed out to the staging area to fuel up and meet with the military police gun trucks that would provide additional armed escort to an already heavily armed convoy.

At 9:40 a.m. Kuwait time, the convoy crossed the berm into Iraq to begin the 400-mile journey to Baghdad.

To be continued ...



America's Air Force –
No one comes close



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Whiteman Spirit Award



Master Sgt. Patrick Crickard
509th Maintenance Squadron

Master Sgt. Patrick Crickard, 509th Maintenance Squadron, received the Whiteman Spirit Award from Col. Chris Miller, 509th Bomb Wing commander, Monday.

Senior Master Sgt. Andy Alvarez, 509th MXS, nominated Sergeant Crickard for the award.

Sergeant Crickard is the lead low-observable production superintendent for more than 170 military and civilian 509th MXS members and contractors.

"He has a 'can do' attitude when it comes to repairing the thousands of backlog LO hours the aircrafts accumulate during flying hours," Sergeant Alvarez said.

At 6 a.m. Sergeant Crickard begins his normal duty day and continues until 6 p.m., ensuring the LO maintainers, depot teams and contract maintainers understand the requirements and provide the Air Force and the wing with the best maintained stealth systems.

Sergeant Crickard runs the LO production section and has involvement in every aspect of the B-2's stealth health. "He is one person on this base with a significant impact to the mission capability of the B-2 fleet. Without him, the B-2 is an expensive B-52," said Sergeant Alvarez.

Personally Speaking

Duty title: B-2 LO senior production superintendent

Time on station: Three years

Time in Service: 19 years

Hometown: Middlesex, Vt.

Spouse: Tammy

Children: Kimberly, Ashley, Jake, Emily, Claire Jonathan and Susan

Hobbies: Auto mechanics, spending time with my family.

Goals: To help young Airman and NCOs become the next Senior NCOs of the Air Force.

Best thing about Whiteman: The people. I've had the chance to work with and for some of the best people in my career field, from the new Airman all the way up the chain the best are here. I truly believe I could not be a part of a better shop. The people who work for me in the structural maintenance and my supervision are hands down the best in the Air Force.

Pet peeves: People who don't want to be part of a team.

What motivates your winning spirit? My wife Tammy.

If you could change one thing at Whiteman, what would it be? Nothing.

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.

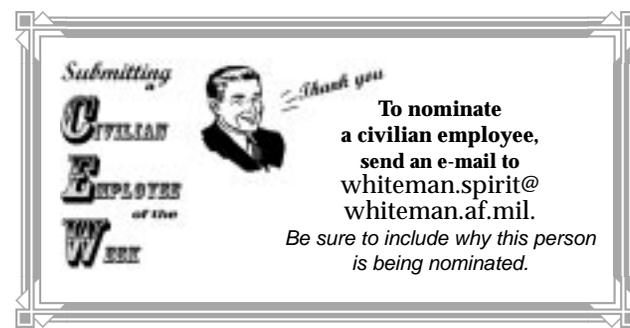




Photo by Maj. Rob Palmer

Bowl baby, bowl!

With mom Ceani's encouragement, Hailee Singler bowls for the strike zone during the Moms, Pops and Tot's playgroup's outing at the Stars and Strikes Bowling Alley on Aug 19. Hailee is the daughter of SSgt Kahl Singler. Moms, Pops and Tots playgroup meets 10 a.m.-noon Thursdays at the National Guard Armory near the LeMay Gate. Call Stephanie Zink at 687-4342 for more information.

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Tech Sgt. David Bauer, 509th Maintenance Squadron, said Airman Hoyt "her positive, patriotic outlook encourages those she works with. She's an integral part of the squadron and supports the mission with her job."

Co-worker Airman 1st Class Ruben Zamora, 509th Maintenance Squadron said, "Airman Hoyt is a dedicated person who involves herself in various areas of interest. Continuously striving to improve her mechanical skills and herself, she inspires others to do the same by setting an example with her day-to-day attitude. She's very kind and motivates her co-workers to reach higher expectations."

Airman Hoyt has been in the military since September 2002, and at Whiteman since March 2003 with her husband, Airman 1st Class Michael Hoyt, a nuclear weapons specialist in the 509th Munitions Squadron. "She's a wonderful wife and she's so proud to be working as a jet engine mechanic," he said. "Her cheerful attitude is infectious and her patriotism and love of country is inspiring to all those around her."

Being in the military and a jet engine mechanic has been a dream of Airman Hoyt's since her high school sophomore year.

She fell in love with mechanics when she helped her cousin rebuild a 1976 Cobra II Mustang engine. In addition, Airman Hoyt gained military influence from her father — a retired 1st Lieutenant.

After taking the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test in high school, Airman Hoyt seriously considered which branch of the military to join. She almost joined the Marines but worried she would get stuck behind a desk — unable to do the job she dreamed of. She decided to hold out and wait for the Air Force to call her.

Laughing, she said, "My dad actually ended up calling the recruiter and telling them they needed to call his daughter."

Shortly thereafter, Airman Hoyt met with the Air Force

recruiter, told him about her dream of becoming a jet engine mechanic, and from there she "crossed into the blue." Since then, Airman Hoyt has been racing after her dreams and accomplishing great things along the way — all while serving her beloved country.

Airman Hoyt has taken great pride in her country — even in high school when her class ring had the Statue of Liberty along with "We stand proud" engraved on it. "I absolutely love being a part of the Air Force," she said. "I've always been very patriotic and it makes me so proud to be serving the country I love so much. It's the best thing that ever happened to me."

"I really feel the Air Force has made me a better person," Airman Hoyt said. "It set me up for success — I really don't think my life could be any better right now."

Airman Hoyt enjoys serving her country and those who went before her by being a member of the Whiteman Honor Guard. She went on her first Honor Guard rotation in April.

As a member, she participates in funerals for active duty, veterans and retired, and presents colors at change-of-commands and retirement ceremonies. "I love everything about it," she said.

"I love being able to show respect and serve the people who went before us by honoring their memory. We got to do an active duty funeral on Friday — it was really satisfying for us, and comforting for the family because we were honoring one of our own who died for this country."

With plans to earn an education and to continue on in the military, Airman Hoyt is eager to see what the future holds for her Air Force career. "If I stay in, I want to go all the way," she said.

Sergeant Oday said "Her (Airman Hoyt's) selection for BTZ was just one of the many career accomplishments I'm sure she will attain. With continued hard work and dedication, she is destined for success."

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DEPLOYED, *continued from Page 1*

mostly because the Army forces here provide and maintain the infrastructure. "Normally, we run everything on an installation — we are the communications experts setting up and maintaining the network. Here, we are responsible for the computers on Camp Cunningham. If the server goes down at home, my team is responsible for fixing it. Here, the Army has that responsibility."

Working at the user level instead of the network level helps communications experts better understand their customers. "I usually work with people who have the same level of expertise that I do," said Staff Sgt. John Baker, 455th ESS. "Here, I work with people with differing levels."

Working here gives him a lot of information on how to improve training, both for users and for those who provide customer service for those users.

"Now I can train my work group managers better on dealing with customers — I can provide them more specific knowledge. The Bagram communications Airmen spend most of their time repairing and maintaining the equipment here."

For computers, that's a responsibility that normally falls to work group managers, such as Airman 1st Class Demetrell Newman, an information manager. "I mostly work on uncovering software issues and doing some repairs. That's something I don't do at home."

Another task Airman Newman didn't have the opportunity to do at home was to deal with classified systems.

The opportunities here have given Airman Newman some insight into how to do his job better at home. For instance, at home, he can handle problems over the phone, most of the time. Since the Army uses different programs, he finds he often has to go over and visually see a problem before he is able to fix it.

Because the Army "owns" the network, the communications Airmen work closely with them to take care of Air Force communication needs. "The Army has been absolutely fantastic," said Sergeant Dempsey. "They have been very understanding and bent over backwards to help. I can't say enough good things about how they operate."

Limited resources make the job interesting. "We have limited telephone numbers and limited communication capability back to the states," said Sergeant Dempsey.

The environment also makes the job interesting, he said. "Most hardware in a computer can last up to five years — the equipment is usually obsolete and replaced before we ever have to fix something. Here, the dust tears a lot of hardware up. The dust is so thick and so fine, it coats the machine's insides."

Because of the dust, the Airmen here find themselves repairing equipment often, said Sergeant Baker, something else they are not normally trained to do. "I am using personal knowledge to repair computers — I have seen floppy drives eaten through in a month, and hard drives broken within six months of installation."

Repairing equipment and keeping people communicating is important and the Airmen here are well aware of how important, said Airman Newman. "Communication is a big part of the mission. People need to use computers a lot and stay in touch with other units."

That mission is extremely important to the overall mission in Afghanistan — protecting the country and ensuring coalition teams get out to register voters. "I think it's really good we are giving everyone the opportunity to vote," said Sergeant Baker. "That's really important. It's the next step to moving on and making Afghanistan a secure nation. The country has been pretty beat up over the past 30 years. It's about time someone helped out."

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Community

509th MedGp conducts survey

The 509th Medical Group was selected to participate in an ongoing telephone survey to get timely feedback for patients about their outpatient visit. The caller will ask six to eight questions between 5-8 p.m. weekdays except holidays. The feedback will help 509th MedGp leaders assess the level of service and care provided. For more details, call Tech. Sgt. Kelli Remmert at 687-4312.

Reserve openings available

The Air Force Reserve extends 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.

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. Tuesday and Thursday. WIC includes nutrition education, health promotion and a supplemental food program to help women, infants and children who have nutritional needs. For more details, call the WIC office in Warrensburg at 747-2012.

Pre-deployment briefing scheduled

A mandatory pre-deployment briefing for people who are deploying or going on a temporary duty assignment for more than 30 days begins at 1 p.m. Wednesday. Spouses are encouraged to attend. This briefing covers information about preparing for deployment and programs available to family members who are left behind.

Pre-separation briefing set

A pre-separation briefing for people separating from the military begins at 9 a.m. Monday. Representatives from the military personnel flight, family support center, Air Force Reserve and finance will provide information. The MPF separations and retirements office schedules members for this briefing. For more details, call 687-1500 or 687-6720.

TAP helps departing members

A three-day transition assistance program for people separating or retiring from the military begins at 8 a.m. Tuesday. Attendees will learn basic resume writing skills, interviewing skills, salary negotiation, and receive information on education and Veterans Administration benefits. Reservations are required.

Menus

Knob Noster Elementary School

Monday:	Corn dog, salad, apple and cookie
Tuesday:	Shrimp, broccoli, fruit cocktail and apple crisp
Wednesday:	Spaghetti, green beans, peaches, granola bar and roll
Thursday:	Beef taco, pinto beans, carrots and grapes
Friday:	Chili crispito, corn, pears and cake

Whiteman Elementary School

Monday:	Hot dog, potato wedges, fruit and cake
Tuesday:	Ravioli, spinach, salad and yogurt
Wednesday:	Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans and fruit
Thursday:	Taco salad, beans, fruit and cookie
Friday:	Cheesy turkey, carrot and celery sticks, potato wedges and pudding



Photo by Staff Sgt. Francesca Popp



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tia Schroeder



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tia Schroeder

Military members honored at concert

BONNER SPRINGS, Kan. — Country radio station Q104 FM honored military members from Whiteman Air Force Base, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and the Marine Corps Recruiting Command in Kansas City, Mo., during its annual Y'allapalooza concert Saturday. The station gave free tickets to those honored on stage and had reduced ticket prices for other military members. Above: While waiting backstage, country singer and songwriter Phil Vassar poses for a photo with Whiteman and Fort Leavenworth members. Top right: Senior Master Sgt. Jerome Richardson, 442nd Fighter Wing senior recruiter, explains the Air Force Reserve benefits to concert goer Amy Lesniak of Blue Springs, Mo. Right: Country trio SHeDAISY sang the national anthem. Below: Military members salute during the national anthem.



Photo printed with permission from Jason Squires/liveconcertpics.com

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FREE Classified Advertising in the *Whiteman Spirit*

READ ALL RULES BEFORE PLACING AN AD

1. Advertising is free to all active-duty, guard and reserve military members and civil servants who work on base or at the MoARNG in Warrensburg only. Military or civil service rank must be included in the space for "rank." We do offer free advertising to retired military members.
2. Ads of a commercial nature such as baby-sitting, lawn maintenance, house cleaning, product sales, apartments or houses for rent, work-at-home opportunities or any other service in which the person makes a profit must be prepaid. Paid ads must be placed directly through the *Sedalia Democrat* at 1-800-892-7856, dropped off at 700 S. Massachusetts Ave., Sedalia, Mo., 65301 or e-mailed to the-classifieds@sedaliademocrat.com. They accept VISA, Mastercard, cash, personal check or money order.
3. Free ads are for one-time sale of personal items only. Free ads can't be placed for churches, groups, clubs, organizations or friends not affiliated with the military. Items must be sold for \$150 or less.
4. Only one free ad*, maximum 30 words, will be allowed to run at any given time by the same household, for a maximum of eight weeks. Ads over the 30-word maximum will be edited at the publisher's discretion. *People who are PCSing may place more than one ad and sell the items at any price.
5. Include your home phone in the ad so people can contact you. USE OF DUTY PHONES IN ADS IS AGAINST AIR FORCE REGULATIONS.
6. Print legibly, and place punctuation and spaces where necessary. Use only one word per line.
7. Free ads aren't taken over the phone. They must be dropped off at or mailed to the 509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs Office, 509th Spirit Blvd, Ste 111, Whiteman AFB, Mo., 65305. Ads may also be faxed to 660-687-7948.
8. Many offices on base are using old forms**. If you would like a copy of the new ad form to keep in your office, call 687-6133 and we'll fax a new form for your use.
9. Homes for sale that are listed with a realtor must be paid for. Only people who are PCSing and selling homes FSBO (for sale by owner) qualify as a free ad.
10. Free yard sale ads are for active-duty, guard, reserve and retired military members living on or off base. People who live on base must have their yard sale approved by the housing office first.
11. The deadline for placing new ads, canceling or making changes to ads is 10 a.m. ^{RNLT}Friday, ~~one~~ one week before desired publication.
12. Ads that don't meet these guidelines will not run. Free advertising is a privilege extended to you by the publisher, and your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Submitter's name & address:

Please specify Military/Civil Service Rank:

Home Phone:

Circle number of weeks to run: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

I swear the above ad is true and correct, and I am the owner of the described property.

Signature _____
Date

**All other versions of free classified advertising forms are invalid.