

WARRIOR



LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN

*Recognizing International Women's Day,
showcasing 6 female pilots at Whiteman AFB Pg. 8*

INSIDE:

- ▶ BRIG. GEN. NICHOLS SIGNS PROCLAMATION
- ▶ FATHER AND DAUGHTER DEPLOY TOGETHER
- ▶ OSI OFFERS FOREIGN TRAVEL BRIEFINGS



THE WHITEMAN WEEKLY WIRE

NEWS | UPDATES

The Whiteman Weekly Wire is published weekly in the Warrior and on www.facebook.com/WhitemanAirForceBase.

Items to be published should be submitted no later than noon on Wednesdays to: whiteman.warrior@us.af.mil with the subject "Weekly Wire Request." Your submission must be five lines or less, including contact information. Attachments cannot be included.

The status of the installation during inclement weather or other circumstances is updated on Facebook, www.whiteman.af.mil, and the Straight Talk line, which is 660-687-6397.

X Closures / Downtime

- The Airman & Family Readiness Center will be closed for training on March 27.
- From March 25-29, 509th MUNS will be conducting a 100 percent inventory of the stockpile. No munitions transactions, including issues, pulls, expenditures or turn-ins will be processed. To ensure your account has assets to complete mission and/or training requirements, schedule all munitions transactions for March 18-22, prior to the inventory. Only emergency munitions transactions will be accepted during this time and must be approved in writing through group commanders. Contact Munitions Operations at whiteman.fv4625@us.af.mil or 660-687-8214. (AFI21-201: A3.3.4. During inventories, minimize account transactions by only processing emergency requests submitted in writing and approved by the group commander (or equivalent)).
- The Fitness Center Track and Field is closed for renovations. PT tests will be conducted at Knob Noster High School. All tests are run through the Fitness Assessment Cell (FAC); the FAC will transport testers to the high school to complete the walk/run portion of the test. The Knob Noster track is not available for squadron PT, but if you'd like to run and get a feel for the track, it is only available after school hours.



General information

- Service members are advised to be aware of what they consume as some states legalize recreational marijuana and THC. THC and CBD oils are illegal under federal law and Article 112a of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). Products containing them, such as THC beer, can cause a positive urinalysis result in a drug test.
- The Air Force Aid Society is providing four scholarships for active-duty spouses to complete a pharmacy technician certification course. The 12-week course through State Fair Community College at Whiteman AFB provides the Certified Pharmacy Technician certificate. Applications are available for pick up at the Airman & Family Readiness Center and are due by 4 p.m. on March 15, 2019. Classes meet Tuesday and Thursday each week from April 2-June 20, 2019 at the SFCC on base.
- TRICAREOnline (TOL) offers online access for appointment management, prescription refills, health data, the nurse advice line, secure messages with your PCM and more. Go to www.TRICAREOnline.com.
- The Ozark Inn Dining Facility on base has updated the policy on to-go containers. Only one container per customer per meal in the uniform of the day is authorized. Customers may bring their own to-go containers.
- Army & Air Force Exchange Service (BX) shoppers can now buy items at ShopMyExchange.com and pick them up at their local Exchange for free. Visit <https://www.shopmyexchange.com/#>.
- The base gym has a parking spot reserved during all regular hours and days. The new space is near the front entrance and is reserved for any wing annual award winner or member of Honor Guard.
- The Exceptional Family Member Program and Special Needs Support Group meets at 10-11 a.m. the first and third Tuesday of each month at Whiteman AFB Youth Center. The group provides free information, speakers, children's activities and other events. Call 660-687-7132 for more information.
- Keys, wallets, bicycles, jewelry and other items have been turned in as found property to Security Forces. To inquire, visit Building 711, Room 305, or call Detective Steven B. Scott at 660-687-5342.
- The Qualified Recycling Program is open for drop-off 24/7 with reduced customer service staff. Cardboard, paper, newspaper, printer cartridges, lead acid batteries, scrap metal and aluminum cans are accepted. Materials left outside the Whiteman recycling center are base property; taking them is theft. Contact the recycling center with questions at 660-687-6253.
- Are you interested in joining a vanpool or starting your own? The Department of the Transportation (DoT) manages the vanpool program for the DoD at no out-of-pocket costs for you. This program is open to active duty, guard, reserve and civilians. Contact Maj. Keith Bratton at keith.bratton@us.af.mil.
- Have you checked out the Whiteman Air Force Base smartphone app? The app is frequently updated with new content and resources, including events, a base directory, medical information, and information for inbound and outbound personnel. A link to the download the app is available on the Whiteman website.
- For the latest news, photos, and videos please refer to the official Whiteman Facebook page at www.facebook.com/WhitemanAirForceBase.



WEATHER

FRIDAY

Fog, then Sunny
Hi 47 – Lo 39

SATURDAY

Showers and Breezy
Hi 58 – Lo 30

SUNDAY

Sunny
Hi 44 – Lo 25

MONDAY

Mostly Sunny
Hi 45 – Lo 35



Volunteer Opportunities

- There will be a blood drive from 1-6 p.m. on March 14, 2019 and 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the Whiteman Family Homes Neighborhood Center.
- **Postponed:** The Whiteman PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) needs volunteers for its chili cook-off and family bingo night April 12 at the Whiteman Elementary School cafeteria. Volunteer hours are 4-8:30 p.m. Volunteers eat free and can be provided an EPR letter.
- **Powell Gardens** is looking for volunteers for numerous positions. Volunteers are given free admission year round, along with discounts and other benefits. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old. For more information, call 816-697-2600 ext. 304 or email bhallak@powellgardens.org.
- To volunteer for Team Whiteman's Airman Against Drunk Driving (AADD) program, contact Senior Airman Tyler Anderson at tyler.anderson.14@us.af.mil.

Advisories

- **Reminder:** Snow-removal equipment has the right of way on the airfield and base streets.
- If you are experiencing heating issues on base, please contact the 509th Civil Engineer Squadron at 660-687-6350.
- Airmen purchasing OCPs at the military clothing store on base during the rollout are advised to also buy accessories such as name tapes, belts and boots prior to the rollout on March 15, 2019.
- The Whiteman AFB Tax Center will not be stood up this year as a result of December's partial government shutdown. Options to assist you with filing your taxes, including free online software and tax consultants available via phone, are detailed at www.whiteman.af.mil/taxcenter/. Taxes are due to the IRS by Monday, April 15, 2019 (April 17, 2019 for residents of Maine and Massachusetts). The IRS is accepting tax returns now.
- **Food Recalls:** Nature's Path Foods Inc. recalled Choco Chimps, Gorilla Munch and Jungle Munch cereals due to undeclared gluten. Utz Quality Foods LLC recalled Bachman 10-ounce twist pretzels due to undeclared milk and mislabeling. All applicable base facilities have been notified. Review recalls at <http://www.dla.mil/TroopSupport/Subsistence/FoodSafety/fso/ALFOODACT.aspx>.



Upcoming Events

- The 509th Comptroller Squadron is running a green eggs and pancakes fundraiser on March 15, 2019 on base. A plate with 2 eggs and two pancakes is \$5. Orders will be delivered from 7-10 a.m. Pre-order by March 13. To order email hannah.wiedemann@us.af.mil or taylor.farmer@us.af.mil.
- The 509th Medical Group is offering a nicotine cessation class in the B-2 conference room at the clinic. Attending all four sessions is recommended. Session 1 is 2:30-4:30 p.m., March 12; Session 2 is 3-4:30, March 26; Session 3 is 3-4:30, April 2; Session 4 is 3-4:30, April 19. Call Health Promotion at 660-687-1199 to enroll.
- **Postponed:** The Whiteman PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) is hosting a chili cook-off and family bingo night from 5-8 p.m. April 12 at the Whiteman Elementary School cafeteria. The event is open to everyone on base. The cost is \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door; PTO members and their families are \$5. For additional information, contact whitemanpantherspto@gmail.com.
- A pre-diabetes class is 2:30-4:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month at the 509th Medical Group Education and Training room in the basement. Call 660-687-1199 to enroll.
- EFMP/special needs or deployment/remote status military family are invited to Coffee & Chat 10-11 a.m. every third Wednesday of the month at Coffee SKNOBS in Knob Noster. Complimentary coffee with refreshments are offered. Children are welcome with adult supervision. For more information, call 660-687-7132.
- The Airman & Family Readiness Center offers financial classes every month. Individual appointments are available. Call 660-687-7132 or 660-619-2735 for more information.

Combat Arms training with Staff Sgt. Knott



Staff Sgt. Dillan Knott, a Combat Arms instructor with the 509th Security Forces Squadron, demonstrates a proper kneeling firing stance on March 5, 2019, in the Combat Arms classroom on Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. Knott said the best, most-stable placement for the elbow while kneeling is either on the thigh or past the knee with the tricep. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Parker J. McCauley)



An Airman with the 509th Bomb Wing loads a magazine with 5.56mm inert training bullets on March 5, 2019, in the Combat Arms classroom on Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. The Airmen in the class were training for a variety of assignments including deployments, permanent change of station and duty firing so they can fulfill their duties on base. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Parker J. McCauley)



Staff Sgt. Dillan Knott, a Combat Arms instructor with the 509th Security Forces Squadron, poses for a photo and points to a target on March 5, 2019, in the Combat Arms classroom on Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. Knott led a weapons familiarization course for Airmen across the base to help them learn to operate and maintain the weapons. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Parker J. McCauley)

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**Does not include filing fee which varies by county (\$102.00 Approx.) or the fee for service by publication if needed or the class required for divorces with minor children.

Women from the Wing

Who are you? I am Airman 1st Class Elizabeth Hayworth and I come from Italy. I am a jets shop specialist in the 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

Why did you join? I wanted to do something of important in my life, something that really mattered and could make the difference. I wanted to be a pilot so I joined in the Air Force and actually I had to go all way to Germany to do it, because there were no recruiters in my country.

Who is the most influential woman in your life? The most influential woman in my life is my mother. I know, it could be a pretty common answer, but she is a real fighter. She is the bravest and strongest person I have ever met. Every time my dad was deployed and she was alone, especially when he went to Kosovo, every time we had to change city and start all over again, she overcame all the challenges and all fears without losing her smile or spirit. Even now, that there is an ocean between us, she continues to care and look after me, pushing me to be the best I can be no matter what.



WWW.WHITEMAN.AF.MIL

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(example: \$12.99 x 10 yards=\$129.90 NOW \$59.90)

R.I.P. Theresa Gerber, Owner 09/23/2018 6:46pm

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- ruck sack: 20lbs for men 15lbs for women
- hydration source
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QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

Jeanne.davis.1@us.af.mil



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Whiteman pilots recognized for



From 509th Bomb Wing
Public Affairs Staff reports

Whiteman Air Force Base has the most female pilots at one time that it's ever had. For the first time in history, the 509th Bomb Wing has six female aviators and in recognition of International Women's Day on Friday, March 8, 2019, we asked them to share their thoughts and experiences. **Check out the video on Facebook.com/WhitemanAirForceBase.**

International Women's Day is worldwide celebration of the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity.

The first International Women's Day gathering was in 1911 and supported by over a million people in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland. This year's theme is Balance for Better. **Learn more at www.internationalwomensday.com**



Capt. Lauren Kram
13th Bomb Squadron

"When a lot of people think about being in the military or being a pilot, they usually think of men, but there are a lot of women in the military, in aviation. A lot of my friends are female pilots. It doesn't matter really the gender, as long as you want to do it, you go through the training and you earn it like everyone else."



Capt. Jennifer Crum
13th Bomb Squadron

"I was inspired to become a pilot at the Air Force Academy where I first flew in a glider. I later became a civilian pilot, where my husband taught me how to fly. I caught the flying bug and I've never looked back. My favorite part of flying is that initial takeoff when you feel the jet lift away from the pavement for the first time. It's a feeling that you can't replicate anywhere else."

or International Women's Day



Photos by Staff Sgt. Kayla White



1st Lt. Lacey Orians
13th Bomb Squadron

"As a female in a male-operated and male-dominated career field, it is important for females to keep pushing those boundaries and to continue to try to break into things that usually aren't encouraged or expected of women, to make it more equal, more achievable for everyone."



Lt. Col. Nicola Polidor
509th Bomb Wing

"What I would like to pass onto my daughter is that she can accomplish anything she sets her mind to, much like my mother taught me. My children see both of their parents put on flight suits every day and go to work. I want them to grow up in a world where that is normal and that they can accomplish whatever they strive for."



Capt. Sarah Kociuba
393rd Bomb Squadron

"One of the coolest flights I've ever had, I got to take the B-2 out to Wake Island to do a hot-pit refuel. That was pretty neat. Using all the skills I've learned up until now, doing a pretty cool approach, landing there, getting the fuel and taking back off. Just taking a quick look back down at the island in the waves before I kept going."

Bush service dog joins ranks at Walter Reed

Department of Defense

BETHESDA, Md. — Sully, the celebrated yellow Labrador retriever that was the service dog of former President George H.W. Bush, has joined the ranks of working dogs at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center here.

Inducted by way of a paw shake and through an oath of office given yesterday by Walter Reed's director, Navy Capt. (Dr.) Mark Kobelja, Sully enlisted in the medical center's facility dogs program, in which he will work with disabled inpatients and outpatients.

During his enlistment ceremony at the center's USO building, Sully was cited as "a true patriot" and was enlisted as a Navy hospital corpsman, 2nd class.

Pinning on Sully's devices were Evan Sisley, personal aide and senior medic to President Bush and Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Samantha Murdock, the leading petty officer for Walter Reed's Facility Dog Program.

TREMENDOUS IMPACT

The 2-year-old Labrador was by Bush's side for six months, and it was the Bush family's wish that after the former president's death, Sully would join the service-dog program at Walter Reed. He joins a unit of six other dogs in Walter Reed's Facility Dog Program.

"We appreciate the time he had with the president. Sully made a tremendous impact — not only for the president — but his caregivers and the entire [Bush] family," said John Miller, president and chief executive officer for America's VetDogs, where Sully was trained to be a service dog.

"Sully's going to do a great job here at Walter Reed. He's going to see a patient on average every hour," leaving patients in more cheerful moods, he said.

"He'll do a lot of things here, but mostly bring smiles to faces," as a dog with the right demeanor, Miller added.



Sully, the service dog for former President George H.W. Bush, walks with the Americans with Disabilities group after they viewed the coffin of the 41st president as he lies in state at the U.S. Capitol rotunda on Dec. 4, 2019, in Washington, D.C. (Courtesy photo by Pat Benic)

PATIENT VISITS

Sully and the other service dogs at Walter Reed typically visit patients on wards and in behavioral health, the brain fitness clinic, and occupational and physical therapy clinics.

The facility dogs at Walter Reed average 2,500 contacts with people and more than 200 working hours per month collectively, according to a Walter Reed press release. Many of the dog handlers are active-duty service members who are trained in a 6-week program. The dogs live with a custodian of the program.

Sully, like his six battle buddies, is trained in situational awareness, sitting politely for petting, accepting a friendly stranger, walking through a crowd, how to react to distractions, entering elevators, how to react to another dog, and various commands.



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Spangdahlem AB master sergeant wins Spark Tank competition

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

ORLANDO, Fla.— Master Sgt. Jonathan Maas assigned to the 52nd Fighter Wing, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, was named the 2019 Spark Tank winner during the Air Force's Spark Tank competition at the Air Force Association Air Warfare Symposium Feb. 28, in Orlando.

This year's winning idea was the Joint Chemical Agent Detector Renewable Energy Power Supply, which will provide uninterrupted chemical agent detection while running continuously with minimal user maintenance.

"Originally I wasn't going to apply for this competition," said Maas. "But my buddy continued to push me to apply and I'm glad I did because it shows that even those ideas you may not think people are going to care about, people are going to listen with this type of program."

Maas's submission was one of six Spark Tank finalists that were showcased to a panel comprised of Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright who were also joined by Mark Cuban, entrepreneur and Dallas Mavericks owner and George Steinbrenner IV, Harding Steinbrenner Racing owner.

While the competition has only one winner, other Spark Tank ideas received senior leader support to move ahead.

Since its inception in September 2017, the Spark Tank competition has been a high-profile, public forum that celebrates the innovations of Airmen while identifying avenues to increase lethality and cost-effective modernization, pushing boundaries to pursue future technologies and recognizing problems and creative solutions.

Wilson began the Air Force's Spark Tank competition in September 2017 and has been co-hosted between the Airmen Powered by Innovation program and the AFWERX innovation ecosystem, which was conducted in a multi-step approach starting with participants submitting their ideas through the IdeaScale website.

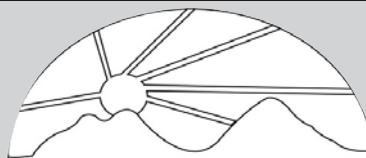


The 2019 Air Force Spark Tank competition judges Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright, Mark Cuban and George Steinbrenner IV pose for a group photo with the Spark Tank winner during the Air Force Association's Air Warfare Symposium in Orlando, Fla., Feb. 28, 2019. Spark Tank is a chance to celebrate Air Force risk-takers, idea makers and entrepreneurs who refuse to accept the status quo and have determined their own fate by developing solutions that make it easier for the Air Force to bring the very best to the fight. (U.S. Air Force photo by Wayne Clark)

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JUST OUTSIDE WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE

www.cityofknobnoster.net



A growing, friendly community where people and businesses are ready to serve you!

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Professional Women's Organization—1st Mon. of each month - Basement of City Hall

Lion's Club—2nd & 4th Mon. 7 p.m. - Jubilation Center

Knob Noster Area Business Council—4th Thurs. of each month. 660-563-1633 for more info.

Masons—2nd & 4th Thurs. 7:00 p.m. - Knob Noster Masonic Lodge AF & AM

Garden Club—1st Thurs. of each month 6:30 p.m. - Trails Regional Library - Knob Noster Branch

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)—Every Fri. 8 p.m. - Basement of Methodist Church

Knob Noster Board of Aldermen—1st & 3rd Tues. each month - City Hall, 201 N. State Street

Whiteman Area Piecemakers Quilt Guild—3rd Thurs. each month 7 p.m. - Methodist Church

AMVETS—Membership Dinner 1st Tues. each month 6 p.m. - AMVETS Building

VFW—1st Fri. each month 7 p.m. - VFW Building

VFW Auxiliary—1st Fri. each month 7 p.m. - VFW Building

Boy Scouts - Troop 509 Knob Noster United Methodist Church, Arnold Sauther, 660-441-5219

Cub Scouts - Pack 405 Ben Pancoast, 660-238-5936

Cub Scouts - Pack 509 Knob Noster United Methodist Church

Girl Scouts - Jo Ellen Elwell 563-3514

Freedom of Road Riders, Local 33 - 3rd Sun. 1 p.m. - AMVETS Building

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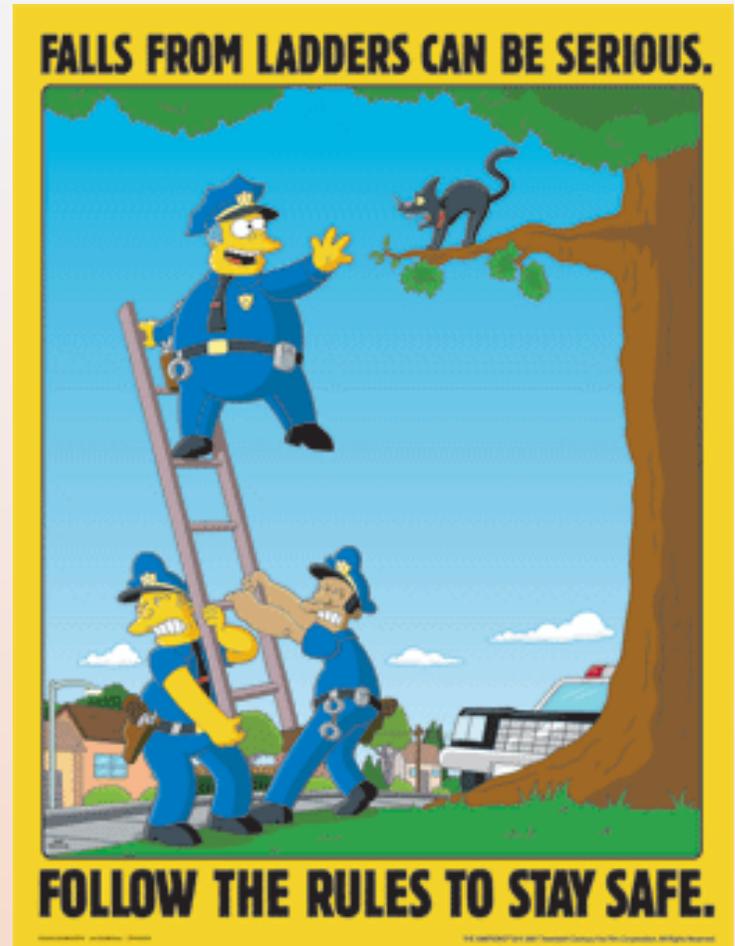
March 2019 Safety Gram

Ladder Safety

Ladders are ranked **#7** on OSHA's annual Top 10 Most Cited Violations.

Always:

- Inspect ladders before every use.
- Use a clean and level surface.
- Maintain 3 points of contact
- Follow any and all manufacturer guidance.
- Completely open ladders before climbing.
- Face the ladder and grip the rungs, not the rails.



Never:

- Have more than one person on a ladder at a time.
- Stand ladders on moveable objects.
- Carry tools or other objects while climbing or descending.
- Overreach or overload a ladder.



More information on ladder safety can be found at:

<https://www.nsc.org/home-safety/tools-resources/safety-checkup/ladders>

You Can Never B-2 Safe



Activities & Events

Whiteman AFB Marketing

660-687-7929

THE AIR FORCE SERVICES ACTIVITY PRESENTS

MISSION'S END
SATURDAY
MARCH 23
1900

FREE!

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Whiteman Air Force Base Upcoming Events

Thursday, March 14th

Designer Bag Bingo @ Mission's End
5:30 p.m. check in | 6:10 p.m. start time
Alright ladies! Designer Bag Bingo is back!
Grab your daubers and join us for your chance to win bags that are sure to impress!
\$20 presale tickets | \$25 at the door
To sign up call (660) 687-5754.

Sunday, March 17th

St. Patrick's Day Bowl
12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Make sure to wear your green and head on over to Stars & Strikes Bowling Center for some St. Patty's Day fun for the whole family!
\$1 game | \$2 shoes
To sign up call (660) 687-5114.

Saturday, March 23rd

Jason Michaels @ Mission's End
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Jason Michaels returns to Whiteman AFB to dazzle you with his large scale illusions as he takes the stage to provide you with a night of magic and fun for the whole family! Featuring the hilarious magic and comedy of special guest Ben Young.
FREE!
For more information call (660) 687-5754.

Monday, March 25th

Chicken & Waffles @ Ozark Inn
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Grab your friends and head over to the Ozark Inn Dining Facility to enjoy some delicious fried, spicy and original chicken and a build your own waffle bar!
Open to all DoD ID holders.
For more information call (660) 687-5677.

Family Child Care Office (660) 687-5590

Base Residents

Doing child care to help support the AF mission? Licensing is not required if you are:

- Providing occasional care for a friend or neighbor.
- Babysitting on an occasional basis for other families.
- A teenager doing evening or weekend babysitting for families.
- Providing child care in the parents' own home.
- Parent cooperative where one of the parents provides supervision for other parents' children on an exchange basis and no fees are involved.
- Providing less than 10 hours of child care a week on an irregular basis.

If you are providing care beyond these opportunities, please contact the FCC program for a licensing application.

Returning Home Care (RHC)

Military members returning home from a 30 day or longer deployment are entitled to 16 hours of FREE child care. Come to the FCC office for an application prior to participation. Reservations need to be made at least a week prior to the care date. Call for more details.

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Her first, his last: Father and daughter deploy together



Chief Master Sgt. Ralph Chandler, 385th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Det. 2 chief, and Staff Sgt. Madison Chandler, 779th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron aviation resource manager, pose for a photo in front of a C-130 at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, Feb. 18, 2019. This deployment was Madison's first and possibly Ralph's last, but the memories of being deployed together will last a lifetime. (Courtesy Photo)

Staff Sgt. Jeremy L. Mosier
386th Air Expeditionary
Wing Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA — It's very common to hear service members thank their families for the emotional support while they are deployed.

It's with this support service members have found it possible to make it through missed anniversaries, birthdays and other monumental occurrences.

For Chief Master Sgt. Ralph Chandler, 385th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Det. 2 chief, it was no different, but on his most recent deployment, that support was a little closer than normal.

As a child, joining the military was always something that weighed on his mind, especially with his family history of making the service commitment and his great uncles who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving during WWII.

"Growing up knowing that story and having a strong connection to it was always in my mind, as well as my dad who was a 30-year U.S. Army Guardsman and retired as a Sgt. 1st Class," Ralph said.

So after attending college for a few years, he found himself not feeling fulfilled and decided to follow in his

family's footsteps and joined the active duty Air Force.

"I was an aircraft armament systems specialist," he explained. "I was a weapons loader on F-15s, and soon after F-117s."

It was during this time he and his wife, Teresa, would start their family.

While stationed at Holloman Air Force Base their family grew, Sarah and Alana were introduced to the Air Force family.

But, he would face a tough decision shortly after the birth of his middle child, Alana.

"It was the decision of do I stay in and take these orders to Kunsan Air Base, or do I get out and go to the Guard," he said.

With a family background in the guard, he recalled how it was a good atmosphere for he and his brothers and decided it would be a good way forward for he and his family.

In 1994 he would sign with the Ohio Air National Guard in Springfield, and would retrain as a machinist and welder.

This allowed them to move back to their hometown of Norwalk, Ohio, where his youngest daughter, Madison,

would be born.

After a few years at Springfield he then transferred to an Air National Guard unit in Mansfield, his current duty station, and would deploy shortly there after.

Deployments would become somewhat frequent for Chandler. One deployment in particular would stand out more for his youngest daughter, Staff Sgt. Madison Chandler, 779th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron aviation resource manager.

She recalled in 2012 when she was a sophomore in high school as being one of the most difficult.

"My sister, Alana, was a senior and we got to play varsity volleyball together," she said. "Not having our dad there was really tough, because he was our number one supporter."

While this time was one that she remembers vividly, it didn't steer her away from wanting to follow in her father's footsteps.

In the fall of her senior year she approached her dad with a statement that caught him off guard.

"She said, 'Dad, I think I want to join the Guard,'" Ralph explained.

Without hesitation, he offered to

take her to base to speak with other Guardsmen in the career field she was thinking about joining, aviation resource management.

"I met my co-workers, and I remember just feeling excited and knew that was what I wanted to do," Madison said.

Still in her senior year, she enlisted, and in July of 2014 she would be off to basic training.

"That was a wake up call to the realization of what I got myself in to," she said with a laugh. "I knew it was going to be a challenge, but I knew I was capable of doing it."

After basic she would immediately head to tech school in November of 2014.

"He came down to watch me graduate," she said as she looked at her Dad. "Along with my sister Alana, they surprised me and when I got to see them that was the best surprise ever."

After a few years of going to school full time and working in the Guard part time, Madison would be notified of her first deployment.

Little did she know her dad could very well be deploying at the same time.

Ralph had been in an accident and was uncertain about his ability to deploy, but once he was cleared he prepared for 'another' deployment.

"At first it really didn't sink in," Ralph said. "I was like, 'alright, it's another deployment and Madison is going to be coming over with me'."

For Madison this provided a little bit of insight on what to expect since her dad would already be at the location for a while before she arrived.

"I was excited, I knew I wouldn't feel homesick with him here," she explained.

With roughly half of his deployment down, it really started to sink in that Madison was about to be there with him.

"It honestly didn't hit me until I was here and holy moly my daughter is going to be here pretty soon," he explained. "It really gave me something to look forward to."

The days dwindled until the day of her arrival.

"Greeting her as she stepped off that plane was pretty amazing," he said with a grin.

Joining the Guard provided a chance for them to work together and ultimately serve down range together, which brought that family support to the deployed location.

With the possibility of this being Chief Chandler's last deployment, it was all the more special knowing he was here for his daughter's first.

The proud family tradition of service for the Chandlers will be in steadfast hands with Madison.