

WARRIOR



Vol. 4 No. 3
Jan. 25, 2013

Air Force
Implements
Civilian
Hiring
Freeze

Financial
Tips for
2013

From the
Frontlines

"These are people I
would do anything for."
- SSgt Mark Baldenegro

APACHE

Keeping the Longbows flying

Knowledge is power, and a weapon of war

By David Easley

509th Bomb Wing Historian

Most Airmen know the value of finding mentors to guide careers and help develop leadership skills. I believe we can also be mentored by studying history. Though as an Airman, I am drawn to follow the examples of heroes like Eddie Rickenbacker and John Levitow, I also study America's Civil War; my favorite historical mentor comes from that conflict.

Those who've read "The Killer Angels," or seen the Ken Burns documentary, know the story of Union Lt. Col. Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain. Chamberlain won the Medal of Honor leading the 20th Maine Regiment's defense of Little Round Top during the Battle of Gettysburg. The 20th's position on that hill marked the extreme left of the Union's defensive line. So long as the hill was in Union hands, the line was secure, but should the Confederates take it, they would outflank the Federal army and the line would have to be abandoned. Such an occurrence would probably have cost the Union the battle, and possibly the war.

Though his regiment was less than half its authorized strength, Chamberlain was told to hold his ground "at all costs." Despite heavy losses, the 20th held through three charges by Confederate forces outnumbering them more than 2-1. As the Confederates prepared to charge again, Chamberlain realized his men were almost out of ammunition. This, combined with the casualties they had already suffered, could easily have justified abandoning the position. Instead, Chamberlain ordered a maneuver that was unusual in that

era of warfare. He directed his left flank, which had been pulled back at an angle to repel an earlier attack, to advance with bayonets. When the left came in line with the rest of the regiment, the 20th charged downhill, like a door swinging shut. This maneuver surprised and routed the enemy force, and snatched unlikely victory from the jaws of disaster.

But how can obscure maneuver on a 19th-century Pennsylvania hillside teach us about today's Air Force? Studying Chamberlain reveals several lessons that are sound guidance for anyone in our country's service. First was Chamberlain's devotion to duty, and his willingness to go above and beyond to fulfill the responsibilities of his mission. This was all the more remarkable because Joshua Chamberlain was not a professional soldier. He was a college professor who volunteered to serve his country in need, then was prepared to give (in Lincoln's words) the "last full measure of devotion" to his cause. He had already been wounded twice during the battle. Many other leaders would have reasoned that without ammunition and having sustained significant casualties, his men could not be expected to continue against superior odds. Chamberlain, however, put devotion to mission above all, and followed the order to hold his ground.

Another lesson learned from his story is the importance of "thinking outside of the box," and rapidly reassessing tactics as the situation demands. Chamberlain's downhill charge from a fortified position went against all established doctrine, and many would have dismissed it as a course of action. That same ability to think of bet-

ter ways to do the job is valued in our Air Force, and no innovation should ever be seen as too small to consider.

Finally, a lesson I learned from studying this great leader was that having the will to fight is not enough—one must possess the skill, as well. The 20th was only able to make its famous charge because Chamberlain had resisted the previous assaults. The hill's defense would have been impossible if not for the fact that he had continuously re-deployed his men with a series of textbook tactical maneuvers. He is particularly praised for ordering his unit to perform a relatively obscure maneuver known as "refusing the line." But how did a university professor who had little in the way of formal training become an expert on battlefield maneuvers? Simply put, he had made it his business to do so. Chamberlain had been offered command of the Regiment just two years earlier. Knowing he was not prepared for the job, he turned it down in order to first learn the intricacies of soldiering under a skilled mentor. He went out of his way to seek instruction from experienced soldiers, and spent off-duty time studying manuals and textbooks in order to become an expert at his job. On his own initiative, he exceeded the required formal training for his position. So, when he finally assumed command in an hour of great need, Chamberlain was able to skillfully perform his duty.

We may never have to lead in a situation as dramatic as Chamberlain's. But studying great leaders of our past and learning the lessons of their examples and sacrifices will ensure we are better prepared should that day ever arrive.

Airmen get money-saving tips for 2013

By Airman 1st Class Keenan Berry

509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

In today's society, young Airmen may be prone to falling into debt, whether from auto and education loans, credit card abuse, or simply not knowing how to manage and save money. Fortunately, the Whiteman Airman & Family Readiness Center offers numerous programs which can help Airmen learn to manage their finances, pay off debt and plan for retirement, just to name a few.

"The first thing an Airman should be able to do is read his or her Leave and Earnings Statement on their paycheck," said R.D. "Smitty" Smith, 509th Force Support Squadron Airman & Family Readiness Center accredited financial counselor. "If you can't read your LES, then how do you know if your pay is correct and what it's supposed to be?"

Airmen should also be aware of what entitlements they are authorized, as two Airmen will often have different financial statements, depending on their individual situations.

"Airmen need to know what their expenses are, and to track them, while being able to maintain a lifestyle within their means," Smith said.

In an effort to help Airmen make sound decisions regarding finances, Airman & Family Readiness offers the following tips:

*** Save money**

Always look at the cost of items you want to buy and ask yourself if they are things you need immediately, or if you should purchase later after properly planning to do so. Write out financial goals and be disciplined to stick to them. Pay yourself first, put money away and only withdraw just enough for the week.

*** Live within your means**

Do not make expensive purchases that are out of your means. Common purchases in this category include vehicles and homes. Keep car and house payments within your budget and save money for a down payment.

*** Keep a record of your expenses**

Write down everything you spend for a month. Be as detailed as possible, and try not to leave out small purchases. Assign each purchase a category, such as rent, car insurance/payment, phone bill, cable, utilities, food and entertainment. Always overestimate your expenses and underestimate your income.

*** Make a budget! Be disciplined**

Once you have managed to balance your earnings with your saving and spending goals, write down a budget so you will know each month how much you can spend. Goal-setting is key to becoming financially fit; just having a written, physical budget can provide motivation for responsible spending. List your budget categories in order of importance and meet the most important



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Keenan Berry R.D. "Smitty" Smith, 509th Force Support Squadron accredited financial counselor, calculates an Airman's budget, Dec. 18. Smith helps Airmen find ways to reduce unnecessary spending and eliminate other fiscal habits that may be holding them back from financial success.

needs first. Live within your pay grade!

*** Take care of possessions**

It is a simple premise – if you take care of your stuff, you will need to replace it less often. Try not to replace items until absolutely necessary.

*** Pay with cash**

With debit or credit cards, you are not actively handing someone actual dollar bills; therefore, it is easy to lose track of how much you are spending, making you vulnerable to spending far more than you expected. Watching dollar bills leave your wallet is never pleasant, so to help yourself be more fiscally responsible, shop with actual green in your pocket.

*** Credit Cards**

Credit card abuse often leads to debt. People frequently purchase expensive items on credit, thereby exposing their credit profile to ruin if bills are not paid on time. When you do incur debt, pay it off on time.

Ultimately, however, perhaps the most important thing Airmen can do is establish a solid savings.

"Ten percent of Airmen income should go into emergency savings" said Sandy Williams, 509th FSS community readiness consultant. "Establish credit early, but pay off the credit cards."

For more information, or to make an appointment for more personalized help, contact the A&FRC at 660-687-7132.

THE WARRIOR

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For more information, call the Warrior office at 660-687-6123, email: Whiteman.Warrior@whiteman.af.mil, fax us: 660-687-7948, or write to us at: 509th Bomb Wing, 1081 Arnold Ave., Bldg. 59, Whiteman AFB, Mo., 65305.

To advertise in *The Warrior*, call the *Sedalia Democrat* at: 1-800-892-7856.

NEWS BRIEFS

FIRST Robotics

Warrensburg High School needs volunteer mentors for its FIRST Robotics Team. Our team is looking for mentors who have experience in engineering, business, and graphics and would be willing to work with high school students. For more information, contact Brian Holmgren at 660-441-5080 or via email at bdholmgren@em-barqmail.com

Found property

Keys, wallets, bicycles, jewelry and other items have been turned in as found property to Security Forces Investigation Section. To inquire about lost property, go to building 711, room 305, or call Detective Steven Scott at 660-687-5342.

AF Housing

Visit www.Housing.af.mil to find your new home with the Air Force. This website serves as a one-stop shop for Airmen and their families to obtain information about the housing options and support services available to them at Air Force bases world-wide.

Whiteman Warrior Story Ideas

The Public Affairs Office accepts story ideas for news and feature articles on people and organizations to help provide recognition of excellence in performance and set forth norms for mission accomplishment.

To submit an idea, call 660-687-6123, or email whiteman.warrior@us.af.mil

Air Force Accepting Prior Service Applicants

Have you previously served as an enlisted member in the Air Force or other branch of the U.S. military? If so, and you were honorably discharged and have been out of the service less than six years, you may be eligible to serve in the U.S. Air Force. The Air Force is currently seeking individuals to serve in their previous job or to possibly retrain. To learn more, contact your local Air Force recruiter, call 1-800-423-USAF or visit airforce.com and speak live with an Air Force adviser.

For more news briefs, visit <http://www.whiteman.af.mil/news/announcements/index.asp>

Air Force implements civilian hiring freeze

By Staff Sgt. David Salanitri

Air Force Public Affairs Agency

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Air Force senior leaders directed a force-wide hiring freeze among other workforce actions in a memorandum sent to senior commanders Jan. 16.

The actions are part of the Air Force's efforts to pursue reversible or recoverable steps to avoid impacts to core readiness caused by the looming possibility of sequestration and budgetary shortfalls.

Civilian pay makes up a large share of the Air Force's operating budget. With budgetary uncertainty and a projected fiscal year 2013 \$1.8 billion shortfall in the Air Force funding for overseas contingency operations, Air Force leadership is taking these immediate actions to reduce the force's expenditure

rate.

The temporary hiring freeze applies to all positions that are open to applicants outside the Air Force for permanent, temporary and term vacancies in all appropriations, according to the memo. Reassignments and promotions within the current work force will continue because they do not affect the current force size.

The memo, issued by Lt. Gen. Darrell Jones, deputy chief of staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C., states hiring actions already in progress where a selection was made and an entry on duty date already established will continue, and set EODs may remain. External hiring actions where a job offer has not been made will be withdrawn. Exemptions from previous hiring controls do not carry over.

Additionally, commanders are directed to immediately release temporary employees, and not renew term employees. All temporary and term employees, to include reemployed annuitants that are not considered mission critical, should be separated in accordance with already established procedures.

More specific guidance on actions related to the civilian workforce hiring freeze and management of temporary and term employees is being developed and will be distributed through command channels as soon as details are available.

"These are uncharted waters concerning the federal budget and the effect it will have on the Air Force," Jones said in the memo. "It is imperative we work closely together to balance mission needs and minimize impacts to our dedicated civilian employees and their families."

National Prayer Breakfast set to inspire fellowship

By Heidi Hunt

509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Team Whiteman is invited to the National Prayer Breakfast at 7:30 a.m., Feb. 8, at Mission's End. Command Chaplain (Col.) Steven L. Berry, Joint Special Operations Command chaplain and ordained minister, is scheduled to be the keynote speaker.

"The National Prayer Breakfast is an opportunity for Service members to continue our nation's tradition of celebrating our individual diverse faith backgrounds while publicly recognizing our reliance upon God's favor and blessings in our life and work," said Chaplain (Capt.) Kevin Hostettler, 509th Bomb Wing Protestant chaplain.

This year's theme is "Hope and Service." Tickets are only \$5 (E1-E4 pay only \$1 per stripe) and include a delicious breakfast buffet.

The breakfast menu includes scrambled eggs, fried potatoes, turkey and pork bacon, sensational sweets, biscuits and gravy, coffee and juice. Attendees may pay with their club card via E-invite or cash at the Whiteman Chapel any time. Payment will also be accepted Feb. 8, at the door prior to the event. Those interested must RSVP by Feb. 4.

"I want to emphasize that there is hope and service where we may find ourselves on any given day or circumstance," Berry said. "We might not be in the place or circumstance of our choosing, but I believe we can find hope regardless."

While Berry has never been to Whiteman AFB, he said he is looking forward to his visit.



U.S. Air Force photo

Members of Team Whiteman bow their heads in prayer during the annual National Prayer Breakfast, Feb. 7, 2012. Team Whiteman is invited to the National Prayer Breakfast at 7:30 a.m., Feb. 8 at Mission's End. Command Chaplain (Col.) Steven L. Berry, Joint Special Operations Command and ordained minister, is scheduled to be keynote speaker.

"The honor and privilege associated with being asked, as an Army Chaplain, to speak to the Whiteman population of Airmen and their family members at this significant community event is not lost on me," Berry said. "I am surely looking forward to renewing my friendship and kinship with my former Army War College seminar-mate, Brig. Gen. Tom Bussiere. Of course, any day you can visit the home of the mighty B-2 bomber is a good day."

Chaplain Berry's journey as a chaplain began in 1984 where he received his

first assignment as a chaplain with the 3rd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, at Fort Bragg, N.C. Chaplain Berry has global experience and served in Korea twice. Additionally, he has completed tours in Iraq, leading as the deputy command chaplain of multi-national forces, and Afghanistan, where he served as the command chaplain of U.S. forces. He has also served with the storied 82nd Airborne several times.

For more information, contact the Whiteman AFB Chapel, 660-687-3652.

WEATHER

Today	Saturday
Sunny	Mostly Sunny
Hi 44	Hi 37
Lo 23	Lo 20
Sunday	Monday
Rainy	Mostly Cloudy
Hi 48	Hi 60
Lo 30	Lo 40

Courtesy of National Weather Service



the app using the QR code on the top and iOS users can use the code on the bottom.

This month, the 509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs Office is launching a new mobile app called MyMC2. MyMC2 is an app that centralizes all of your installation's community events, organizations and services right in your pocket, allowing Service members and their families to easily access all kinds of community and organizational information. More details about how to download and use the app will be coming soon in the Warrior, the Whiteman AFB Facebook page and at www.whiteman.af.mil. Android users can download



Whiteman photo contest



The 509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs Office is excited to announce the kickoff of our monthly Team Whiteman Photo Contest!

Some of the best photos we see in Public Affairs come from those with no formal training or experience, but who have patience and a creative eye, or happened to be in the right place at the right time.

To share your creativity and innovation with the rest of the Whiteman community, Public Affairs will be sponsoring a monthly photo contest, open to all members of Team Whiteman. The theme for February is "humor." For contest guidelines, check out the official Whiteman Air Force Base Facebook page. Please contact PA at 687-6123 with any questions.

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Inside the lab with H2O



Airman 1st Class Stacey Moore, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron Water and Fuels System Journeyman, pours a sample of chemicals, Jan. 15. The purpose of this procedure is for the chemicals sample to calibrate the pH meter. This is done throughout the day to maintain a stable pH for the water here on base.

U.S. Air Force photos/Airman 1st Class Keenan Berry

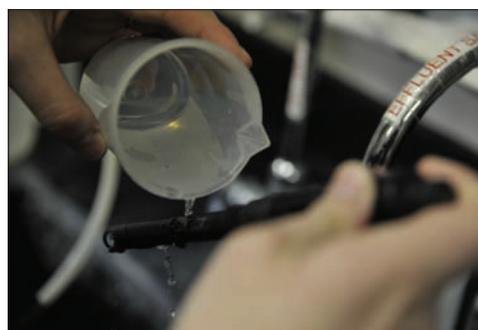


Airman 1st Class Stacey Moore, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron Water and Fuels System Journeyman, retrieves a water sample for testing purposes, Jan. 15. Airman Moore is prepares samples for testing in the lab. Tests need to be made to make sure pH levels are balanced and stabled.

Airman 1st Class Stacey Moore, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron Water and Fuels System Journeyman, conducts further tests on water samples, Jan.15. Continuous tests must be implemented to ensure Whiteman receives fresh and purified water.



Airman 1st Class Stacey Moore, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron Water and Fuels System Journeyman, tests a water sample, Jan. 15. This procedure is used to gather total hardness of water sample to check if any changes are needed to the chemicals that go into the water.



Airman 1st Class Stacey Moore, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron Water and Fuels System Journeyman, rinses the pH stick with a water sample, Jan.15. By rinsing the pH stick with the same water sample, the pH reading will be as accurate as possible.

Whiteman's Niner Line

Do you have a concern, comment or complaint about something at Whiteman Air Force Base?

When traditional methods have failed to get you answers, the Whiteman Niner Line is here to help.

To use the Niner Line, simply visit www.facebook.com/WhitemanNinerLine, and leave a comment, or send a private message

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Speech T-Th

SESSION 2 MARCH 27TH - APRIL 16TH
American History M-W
Speech M-W
Principles Of Management T-TH

SESSION 3A (APRIL 17TH - MAY 7TH)
Humanities M-W

SESSION 3B (APRIL 17TH - MAY 21ST)
College Algebra M-W
College Algebra T-Th

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From the Frontlines: SSgt Mark Baldenegro

By Airman 1st Class Bryan Crane
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Most Airmen who deploy worry about family while they are gone. For Staff Sgt. Mark Baldenegro, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron structural craftsman, the worry was primarily centered around his wife, who was in poor health before he left.

Baldenegro was deployed to Mazar-e Sharif, Afghanistan from July to December 2012, but had his deployment cut a month short due to the declining health of his wife.

“My wife has been dealing with health problems since before I left,” Baldenegro said. “With me being gone on deployment, the stress on her increased and her health got worse, and eventually I was needed to come home before my deployment was completed.”

Although Baldenegro had to worry about his wife’s health, he knew he had a mission and was determined to work hard and complete each job to the best of his capabilities.

Baldenegro left on a joint expeditionary tour tasking, with a primary mission to build large-area maintenance shelters. The crew he deployed with was never trained on building LAMS, but this aspect of civil engineering became the group’s forte.

“When we first arrived on base, we were tasked to build one of these based solely off of a manual, because most of us were never trained to build them,” Baldenegro said.

After building their second LAMS nearly two days faster than the first, they began to receive more and more tasks to build the structures, to the point that doing so became their mission—not just for their own base, but for others, as well.

“We mainly worked on building LAMS for a new base,” Baldenegro said. “Then we started to get tasking to go to other FOBs and bases to construct LAMS there, as well.”

A typical day for Baldenegro involved getting to work at seven in the morning. The team conducted a meeting to organize what their job for the day, and then went out and worked until sundown.

“We went out there after dark sometimes if we got lights



Courtesy Photo

MAZAR-E SHARIF, AFGHANISTAN -- Staff Sgt. Mark Baldenegro, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron structures, was deployed to Afghanistan from July to December 2012. Baldenegro and his team built large area maintenance shelters at bases all across Afghanistan.

set up,” Baldenegro said. “We were a hard working group that just wanted to complete the mission and meet our deadlines.”

Some of these tasks were harder to complete than others, especially when the team went to other forward operating bases.

“At our base, we knew who to contact to get all the equipment we needed to complete our jobs,” Baldene-

gro said. “However, when we went to other FOBs, they weren’t prepared and couldn’t always get us the equipment we needed. It made our jobs harder, but allowed us to use our creativity to come up with new safe ways to get the jobs done using fewer tools.”

Baldenegro and his team knew it was important to get these jobs done as fast as possible so other shops could complete their missions.

“The LAMS we built were used for anything from a maintenance bay for vehicles or aircraft, to a dining facility for Airmen to go eat,” Baldenegro said. “The faster we got our job done, the faster the whole base could get going on their missions.”

This was Baldenegro’s second deployment and overall he enjoyed it, in large part because of the support of his co-workers.

“Honestly, the best part was the people I went with,” Baldenegro said. “They made it so I didn’t hate coming to work. I really enjoyed working and didn’t mind the 16-hour days, because work was just like hanging out with the guys having a good time, joking around, but still getting the job done and meeting our deadlines. These are people I would do anything for and I know they would do the same. It really made the deployment great, and if it wasn’t for the situation I was faced with, I would have loved to stay and complete the job with the rest of my team.”

However, while Baldenegro was gone, his team at home missed his hard work and leadership.

“Staff Sgt. Baldenegro’s commitment to excellence while deployed was greatly missed here in the shop,” said Joseph Schick, 509th CES structural supervisor. “His leadership and expertise have grown exponentially through the experiences and challenges he faced during his deployment. We are glad to have him back so he can share his experience with others and continue to grow as an Airman and leader in the 509th Civil Engineer Squadron.”

Baldenegro was happy to come home to be with his wife, whose health has improved since his return. He believes deploying is something all Airmen should experience during their careers, and he will always remember the lessons he learned while on his.

B-2 Deployment

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii -- Two B-2 Spirit bombers from the 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., will temporarily operate from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, in late-January, in support of USPACOM’s in-theater training objectives.

Since 2004, the U.S. has maintained a deployed strategic bomber force in the Asia-Pacific region contributing to theater security and stability. This deployment will

provide the opportunity for our Airmen to become familiar with operating in the Pacific and exercise the B-2’s ability to employ strategic precision attack capabilities across the globe.

For follow-on questions regarding this release, contact the U.S. Pacific Air Forces public affairs office at (808) 449-7984 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (HST), Monday through Friday or via email at paops@us.af.mil.



Important information about MILPDS upgrade

With the upcoming system upgrade to MILPDS in March, it is highly recommended that you save your military personnel records in their entirety in advance of the upgrade. In order to save a copy of your records before MILPDS goes offline for upgrade, follow the instructions below:

1. Log into AF Portal
2. Find and enter “Personnel Records Display Action” (left hand side of the screen in Top Links area)
3. Once logged in, it will say your role is Member
4. Click PRDA button on the left side of the screen
5. When the mouse pointer turns to a hand over the words “Entire Personnel Record.” Click it!
6. All of your records will appear in the window on the right
7. Click Select All button below the window
8. All records will now have a check mark beside them on all pages
9. Click Get Documents button
10. Dialog window will pop up prompting you to save the file to your computer
11. Click Save and proceed as you normally would when saving a file



Army mechanics keep Apaches flying

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Khaled Alossi, 1-135th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion platoon leader, adjusts his equipment with the assistance of Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jim Nix, 1-135th ARB standardization instructor pilot, after completing a training mission, Jan. 16. Apache pilots each perform two to three missions every day to prepare for combat.

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Nick Wilson
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

In the Army, AH-64D Apache Longbow pilots trust maintainers with their lives every day. One minor maintenance error might be the difference between life and death.

With each Apache costing more than \$18 million, the advanced technology in these aircraft requires that maintainers possess extensive technical expertise and training to keep the choppers in the skies.

"In an emergency, the pilots can't just punch out of an Apache," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Mike Williams, 1-135th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion aviation maintenance officer. "So whatever happens with that aircraft in flight, they're riding it all the way to the ground."

The Apaches on the ramp at Whiteman Air Force Base are maintained by a dedicated team of trained crew chiefs who receive their technical training at Fort Eustis, Va.

"For general maintenance, crew chiefs go through a five-month school, and the armament systems technicians go through a nine-month school," said Command Sgt. Major Dave Gail, 1-135th ARB supply/back-shop supervisor. "They're long courses, but all Soldiers must be fully trained before being qualified to work on the Apache."

Despite the fact that technical school for Apache maintenance is significantly longer than most military technical schools, on-the-job training is still required for the technicians to become proficient in Apache maintenance.

"It's one thing to know where the system is and how it functions," Williams said. "But fully understanding the Apache maintenance system inside and out takes experience."

Like most Air Force technical schools, the Apache training at Fort Eustis provides maintainers with basic mechanical knowledge. On-the-job training gives soldiers real-world application in their fields of expertise.

"There isn't enough time to get all that done and accomplish the mission simultaneously. But with OJT, we're always training and always learning," said Williams.

Even though Apache maintainers are highly trained, their work must still be evaluated before the aircraft can take flight again.

"It's flight-critical with just two pilots in the air, because lives are at stake," Gail said. "We have multiple inspections that verify whether or not our maintenance is performed correctly."

Every Apache has a team of one crew chief and two additional mechanics. Together, they are responsible for that aircraft's success or demise.

"In addition to the mechanics, we have multiple support sections, such as weapons, back-shop support, sheet metal, engine maintenance, maintenance test-pilots, technical inspectors and hydraulic maintenance," Williams said. "It takes a team effort to keep these aircraft flying."

Depending on the flight schedule, the work-schedules of maintainers vary. Sometimes, maintainers need to stagger the maintenance schedule to day and night shifts to support the Apache mission.

"A lot of our heavy maintenance requires around-the-clock support to get the aircraft back into the fight," Gail said.

This laborious phase maintenance schedule is necessary, as just one flight hour requires approximately 17 hours of maintenance, said Williams.

"At the end of the mission day, there is a

daily preventive maintenance check for that aircraft," Gail said. "Even if nothing went wrong in flight, the Apache is still checked by the mechanics."

Not only is maintenance performed at the end of the mission day, but mechanics also complete preventive maintenance before each flight to ensure pilots are safe.

"It's like a pre-flight inspection on steroids," Williams said. "Every component on the aircraft has a life-cycle, so there is constant vigilance and scrutiny."

The continuous attention to detail can sometimes get boring and monotonous for mechanics, but every check is essential to mission success, according to Williams.

"I don't think any system on the Apache fails more than others, but they're all very important," Gail said.

The Army spends around \$3-\$10 million just to replace components on the Apache and ensure our Soldiers are flying in a well-equipped bird. Mechanics also have thousands of tools available to complete numerous types of maintenance.

"We have a special tool room specific to the Apache that our mechanics sign out and use daily," Gail said. "The millions of dollars we have for tools are used for maintenance tasks like calibration, measurement and simulating aircraft flight as it sits in the hangar."

Overall, with solid training, rigorous maintenance and an impressive array of equipment, these Army mechanics of the 1-135th have everything they need to keep Apaches flying.

"The mechanics are true professionals and they love what they do," Gail said. "We have an exciting job and we're proud to do it for the United States."



U.S. Army Sgt. Justin Tracy, 1-135th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion armament technician and U.S. Army Specialist Lawrence Mettes, 1-135th ARB armament technician, perform routine inspections on AH-64D Apache Longbows, Jan. 16. During the past decade, the AH-64D Apache Longbow has supported Service members of all branches by providing armed reconnaissance day or night, on the battlefield and in adverse weather conditions.

U.S. Army Specialist Jonathan Reed, 1-135th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion AH-64D Apache Longbow crew chief, inspects an AH-64D Apache Longbow, Jan. 16. Daily inspections enable Apache mechanics and crew chiefs to conduct preventive maintenance as a countermeasure to problems that may arise in flight.



U.S. Army Sgt. Brian Wood, 1-135th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion crew chief, washes the plexiglass window of an AH-64D Apache Longbow, Jan. 16. The acrylic design on the Apache windows helps keep pilots safe in case of an emergency evacuation.



U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jim Nix, 1-135th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion standardization instructor pilot, re-sizes his helmet for night-vision goggle operations, Jan. 16. Pilots perform nighttime operations to prepare for future deployments and to meet training requirements.



U.S. Army armament technicians from the 1-135th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion perform a daily inspection on an AH-64D Apache Longbow, Jan. 16. The Apache is a four-blade, twin-engine attack helicopter with a tail wheel-type landing gear arrangement and a two-person cockpit.



U.S. Army Specialist Jonathan Reed, 1-135th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion AH-64D Apache Longbow crew chief, closes a panel on an AH-64D Apache Longbow during a daily inspection, Jan. 16. Inspecting components in panels is part of the daily inspection Apache crew chiefs must complete.

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Airman 1st Class Jared Slaton, 509th Maintenance Squadron jet backshop, does a curl exercise at the Fitness Center, Jan. 22. Curl exercises work on the bicep and shoulder muscles.



Airman 1st Class Jared Slaton, 509th Maintenance Squadron jet backshop, does a rotating abdominal exercise with a ten pound weight at the Fitness Center, Jan. 22. This exercise works out his abdominal muscles as well as his upper legs.



Airman Rodney Brockman, 509th Maintenance Squadron jet backshop, does a squat exercise at the Fitness Center, Jan. 22. The purpose of the squat exercise is to increase leg and lower back strength.



The base Fitness Center offers a full exercise room. Along with the exercise room, the Fitness Center has two basketball courts and a cardio room.



The base Fitness Center offers a wide variety of exercise machines and weights. The Fitness Center is open Mon. through Thurs. 5 a.m. till 1 a.m., Fri. 5 a.m. till 9 p.m., and Sat and Sun, 8 a.m. till 6 p.m.

*U.S. Air Force photos/
Airman 1st Class Bryan Crane*



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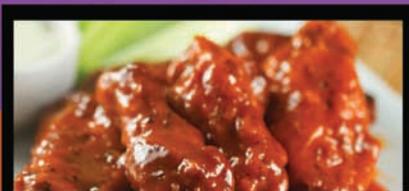
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