

WARRIOR

Serving the White

- Vol. 4 No. 15

April 19, 2013

Year of the B-2

*Keep calm
and ride on
Pg. 5*

*Stand down
to stand up to
sexual assault
Pg. 11*

*13th AMU &
393rd AMU
compete
Pg. 11*

SFS Armory

Arming the mission, Pg. 8

Force Protection is everyone's business

By Senior Airman Montse Belleau
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

The further we get from the terrorist attacks of 9/11, the more complacent people seem to become about the threat from global terrorism. Without security and law enforcement personnel at every turn, it takes a total team effort to protect the Whiteman AFB community. Each person, regardless of their military affiliation, plays a vital role in the protection of the base.

"Force Protection is everyone's business" may sound cliché, but nothing could be more true," said Lt. Col. Christopher Neiman, 509th Security Forces Squadron commander. "Team Whiteman and the surrounding communities have traditionally used the Eagle Eyes program to great effect. With the insidious attacks in Boston fresh in mind, our best defense remains our combined awareness and follow-through; if you see something, say something!"

Unfortunately, terrorism has become a grim reality and the number of attempted attacks has increased over the past years, according to Robert Striegel, 509th Bomb Wing antiterrorism officer.

"Our intelligence and law enforcement communities are doing a tremendous job thwarting many potential terrorist plots; however, as terrorists change their tactics, techniques and procedures, we too must change our methods of protecting the community," Striegel said. "We may not always agree with some security precautions put in place but they are there to ensure the safety and security of you and your family."

In today's environment members must not allow themselves to become complacent. By being alert and notifying law enforcement professionals of any suspicious activities on or near the base, members can help prevent incidents



from happening. The Department of Homeland Security began the campaign "See Something, Say Something." The U.S. Air Force has a similar program called the "Eagle Eyes" program, which encourages all personnel to be aware and report suspicious behavior to the proper authorities.

Signs to look for and report:

Surveillance — Someone recording or monitoring base activities.

Elicitation — Any person or organization attempting to gain information about military operations or people. This includes through the use of social media networks.

Suspicious Persons Out of Place — People who do not seem to belong in the workplace, neighborhood or anywhere else.

Suspicious Mail — Be alert for suspicious letters or packages that arrive at your office or

home. Consider mail suspect if it has no return address; markings are poorly typed or written; it has excessive postage or tape; an unknown powder or substance is present on it; the package is rigid, bulky, lopsided or uneven; it is addressed to title only, instead of an individual; if there are any protruding wires; or if there are oily stains, discoloration or odors present.

If you receive a suspicious package, do not handle it. Isolate it, and do not open, smell or taste it. Activate your unit's emergency plan, notify your supervisor and contact OSI and SFS immediately.

Test of Security — Any attempts to measure reaction times to security breaches or to penetrate physical security barriers or procedures.

Acquiring Supplies — Purchasing or stealing explosives, weapons, ammunition, uniforms, badges or any other controlled items.

Dry Runs — Putting people into position and moving them about without actually committing a terrorist act.

Deploying Assets — People and supplies getting into position to commit the act.

And finally, always remember to practice good operational security. This applies to military members and their families. Posting sensitive information on social media sites may seem harmless however, complaining about work schedules or disrupting weekend plans on social media sites such as Facebook could paint an operational picture for our enemy. This could put people at risk if put in the wrong hands.

Nobody wakes up thinking they will be a victim of a terrorist attack. Through continual awareness by the Whiteman community we can ensure the safety and security of our families.

To report suspicious or criminal activity, call Eagle Eyes at 660-687-3700.

Message to military firearms owners

The number of people obtaining concealed carry permits is on the rise nationwide. However, it is important to remember that there are unique rules governing the possession and transportation of privately owned firearms (POFs) on federal installations.

For instance, dorm residents cannot have POFs or ammo in the dorms at any time and they cannot store them in their vehicle or a friend's house on base. ALL POFs must be stored in the SFS armory or off the installation entirely.

Base housing occupants need to register their POFs with their

unit firearm registration monitor (FRM). They have 10 duty days to do so once they obtain base housing, or three duty days to make any additions if they purchase weapons not already registered in their name.

For more detailed information on having POFs on base, contact your unit FRM. If you do not know who your unit's FRM is, contact your first sergeant.

Remember — ALL personnel are prohibited from carrying a concealed weapon on base at any time!

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.

On the cover

U.S. Air Force photo/
Staff Sgt. Nick Wilson

Airman Brandon Swisher, 509th Security Forces Squadron response force member, counts M240 machine gun rounds in the armory during his 12-hour shift at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., March 25, 2013. The armory is a safe and secure location on base to store weapons.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Christopher Callaway

Around the Air Force

Airmen jump out of a MH-47 Chinook April 9, 2013, at Wynnehaven Beach, Fla. The helicopter conducts overt and covert infiltration, exfiltration, air assault, resupply and sling-load operations in a wide range of environmental conditions. The Airmen are assigned to the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron at Hurlburt Field, Fla.

NEWS BRIEFS

2013 Community Assessment Survey

The 2013 Community Assessment Survey is your opportunity to contribute to community action plans at your base, MAJCOM and the Air Force!

Starting 5 April 2013, you may be one of those chosen to receive an email invitation to participate in a survey concerning your experiences as a member serving in the Air Force. Sharing your experiences and opinions in this survey is voluntary and will help us improve life for families in the Air Force Active Duty, Reserve components and DoD Civilian workforce.

The survey's subject line will be '2013 Community Assessment Survey (Survey Control Number AF13-141SGHW)' and it will be from afcasurvey@ipsosresearch.com.

If you have questions about this survey, you may contact this survey's POC, Lt Col Wendy Travis at afmoa.communityassessmentsurvey@us.af.mil.

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>

WEATHER

Today	Saturday
Mostly Sunny	Partly Sunny
Hi 51	Hi 63
Lo 33	Lo 32
Sunday	Monday
Chance of Storms	Chance of Storms
Hi 62	Hi 61
Lo 45	Lo 46

20th RS Change of Command



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Jason Huddleston

Lt. Col. Jon Chesser accepts the guidon from Col. Michael King, 432nd Operations Group commander, during the 20th Reconnaissance Squadron change of command ceremony, April 15, 2013. During the ceremony Lt. Col. Jon Chesser took command of the 20th Reconnaissance Squadron from Lt. Col. Travis Burdine.

This Week in 509th Bomb Wing History: B-2 anniversaries

David Easley

509 Bomb Wing Historian

23 April 1988: The Air Force announced that it would conduct the upcoming Advanced Technology Bomber (ATB) flight test program at Edwards Air Force Base. The B-2 Combined Test Force was officially established, although it had existed prior to this date as a special projects office. The B-2 effort would be the first major program at the large new testing complex at South Base at Edwards.

27 April 1990: After a scheduled five-month layoff, Northrop's B-2 started flying again. This six-hour, five-minute test flight above Edwards AFB, CA, took the stealth bomber to 35,000 feet. It also completed four mid-air refuelings from a KC-10.



An A-10 Thunderbolt II sits in a hangar as the sun rises April 9, 2013, on Barksdale Air Force Base, La. The A-10 is equipped with one 30 mm GAU-8/A seven-barrel Gatling gun capable of firing 3,900 rounds per minute to defeat a wide variety of targets including tanks.

U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Micaiah Anthony



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KEEP CALM AND RIDE ON



Members of the Lee's Summit Police Department navigate "Grant's Gauntlet" during the annual Motorcycle Awareness and Safety Day at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., April 15, 2013. Grant's Gauntlet is a timed riding course that tests stopping and turning skills of riders.

Story and photos by
Airman 1st Class Bryan Crane
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Riding a motorcycle can be fun and exhilarating, but it can also be dangerous. On Monday, April 15, Whiteman Air Force Base held its annual Motorcycle Awareness and Safety Day in the Commissary parking lot to raise awareness and educate Airmen and base civilians on how to always make it the former.

"The event was a great way to bring together members of the base who have similar interest in riding motorcycles," said Tech. Sgt. Steven Bobbitt, Detachment 6, 372nd Training Squadron security manager. "It also helps us get the word out about being safe while riding."

The need for awareness is undeniable. During fiscal year 2012, the Air Force lost 18 Airmen due to motorcycle accidents. So far in FY 2013, we have already lost seven fellow Airmen.

"Riding can be such a thrill that some forget the basic safety tips," Bobbitt said. "This event allowed us to bring those safety tips back to the front of people's minds when they ride."

Riders should prepare themselves even more than normal before first beginning to ride again every year.

"The first thing a rider should do is to give his or her motorcycle a thorough cleaning," Bobbitt said. "This allows the rider to get up close and personal with the machine and look at the little things that get overlooked."

TCLOCKS, which stands for "tires and wheels, controls, lights, oil, chassis and kickstand," is a pre-ride inspection that all riders should complete before heading out on their bikes.

"It is also important for riders to make sure they are prepared mentally and physically," Bobbitt said. "They should ask themselves if they are prepared to ride and accept the risks that come along with riding."

All riders should also look over all of their gear to ensure serviceability, size and fit.

They should also always know the road conditions before they head out.

"Beware of salt, sand, dirt and oil," Bobbitt said. "It is important to be aware of these things, especially when going around turns."

Part of safely operating a motorcycle is staying mindful of the surrounding traffic, said Bobbitt.

"Keep an eye out for other drivers, because they are not used to looking out for motorcyclists," he said. "Something else to be aware of is wildlife. Here in Missouri, deer are rampant, so it is important to be on the lookout at all times for any animals."

Maintaining a solid buffer for adequate reaction time is key to motorcycle safety, as well.

"A safe following distance helps ensure that you won't rear-end a car that stops suddenly," Bobbitt said.

"It also helps you see road hazards after the car in front of you has passed over [them]. A minimum two-second following distance should be used for most riding conditions."

Many riders enjoy group riding, as well. When going on a group ride, riders should prepare by having an initial get-together first.

"Prior to a group ride, the riders should meet to discuss the details of the ride, including the where, how and what-ifs," Bobbitt said. "Mapping out the ride to show potential hazards beforehand can allow for riders to be aware of traffic concerns or construction zones."

All riders should carry a cell phone and list of other riders' numbers. More experienced riders should also carry a first-aid kit and a small tool kit in case of emergencies.

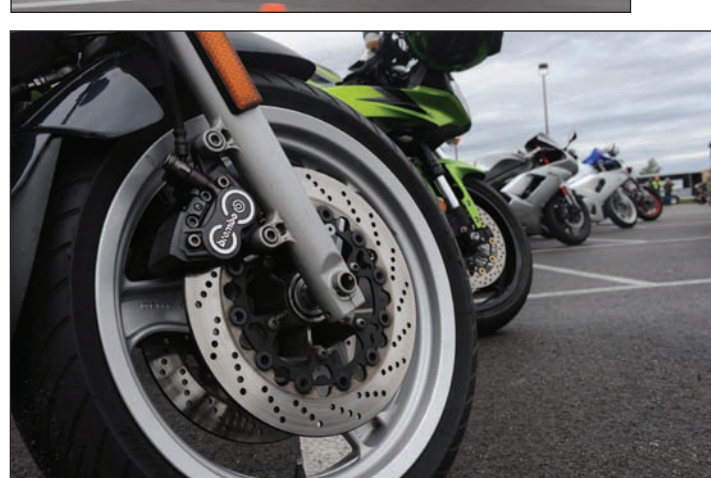
Remember, though, that these tips are only good if Airmen use them. Enjoy the ride as spring comes and melts into summer, but be sure to stay safe.



Members of Team Whiteman participate in the annual Motorcycle Awareness and Safety Day at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., April 15, 2013. The event was held in the commissary parking lot to raise awareness for safe motorcycle riding practices.



Staff Sgt. Ryan Schmettgoecke, 509th Munitions Squadron live delivery crew chief, participates in the Grant's Gauntlet challenge during the annual Motorcycle Awareness and Safety Day at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., April 15, 2013. Riders should follow the TCLOCKS, (tires and wheels, controls, lights, oil, chassis and kickstand) pre-ride inspection before all rides.



Motorcycles sit in a row at the annual Motorcycle Awareness and Safety Day at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., April 15, 2013. The Motorcycle Awareness and Safety Day consisted of raffle drawings, a Grant's Gauntlet riding challenge and breakfast and lunch served by the USO.

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By Ivonne Bates

509th Civil Engineer Squadron

Time to see the light! On Jan. 1, 2012, new energy efficient standards went into effect and incandescent light bulbs are being phased out in the United States. The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 established these efficiency standards as outlined by energy.gov.

New energy efficiency standards in the US require that light bulbs use 25 percent less energy. There are several options available right now that provide the same level of, or more, brightness while saving energy.

The new lighting standard, measured in lumens, measures the level of brightness. Lumens are to light as gallons are to milk. For example, if you want to replace an incandescent bulb that is 60 watts, you will want to

look for the measure of 800 lumens.

Over the next few years, we will see more in the way of lighting choices that offer the same lighting levels that also save energy. The savings will add up as we upgrade bulbs throughout our buildings and homes.

Another benefit to the new lighting standards is the new bulbs have longer life spans. When shopping for lighting, look at the labels on the packages. The new standards required

new product labels for lighting, so look for the lighting facts and note the brightness number (the amount of lumens).

As a part of the energy efficiency initiatives for greening up Whiteman you will start to see more of our buildings with LED lighting.

These replacement projects will help reduce electrical demand and consumption while improving lighting efficiency throughout the base.



Left: A photo of pre-replacement lighting in one of our high-bay facilities.

Right: Lighting after replacement.

To learn more about lumens and other energy saving information, scan the QR code below, or visit <http://energy.gov/energysaver/energy-saver>. Be sure to like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/WhitemanEnergyProgram>.



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SFS Armory – Arming the battle

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

(Editor's Note: This is part one of a three-part series about Security Forces Airmen)

Defenders are on the flightline protecting assets 24/7. In order to perform that mission, they need to be equipped with the necessary weapons and ammunition.

That is where the 509th Security Forces Squadron armory becomes critical to the battle.

"We maintain accurate accountability for all munitions, weapons, ammo and equipment that we have," said Staff Sgt. Derin Cash, 509th SFS assistant NCO in charge of the armory. "In addition, we ensure each flight member gets the correct weapon, and that individuals who aren't assigned weapons don't get weapons."

To accommodate the squadron's mission, a team of ten security forces members are responsible for ensuring the armory is manned at all times.

"Without us, everything in the security forces mission realistically wouldn't run," Cash said. "Airmen need weapons to fight, radios to be able to talk to each other and night-vision devices to be able to see during nighttime conditions. Without us doing our job, it would greatly impact a Defender's ability to do his job."

Knowing the whereabouts of more than 1,000 weapons valuing in excess of \$5 million means keeping track of every weapon is the most important part of an armorer's mission, said Senior Airman Brian Winker, 509th SFS armorer.

"I have to make sure all of the M4 carbines that were out on post came back, as well as issue hand receipts for weapons supplied by the armory," Winker said. "I also make sure all rounds of ammo issued to Airmen are returned."

The armorers in the squadron spend most of their time ensuring weapons and equipment are operational before they give them out, Winker said.

"I get everything ready for the oncoming flights so that when they arrive, we can make the process go as quickly and as smooth as possible," he said.

The individuals who work in the armory are Airmen who want to branch out and see other sides of security forces leading to combat arms," Cash said.

"Airmen wanting to work in the armory submit a resume to me and I evaluate their math skills and their ability to

problem-solve," Cash said. "Based on what they show me, I have to feel confident that they can work back here without supervision."

Attention to detail is a character trait that Airmen working in the armory need to have to perform the job, Cash said.

"It's pivotal because that's the one thing that will make or break an individual working back here," Cash said. "Not performing this job correctly could cause someone to go to jail, because one item missing means something that's a part of the military inventory is gone and could be investigated. If a gun goes missing, that's a huge deal for everybody in our squadron."

Not only do security forces members store weapons for people working in the squadron, but they also house weapons for those who reside on base.

"Anyone living in the dorms who own a weapon stores it here," Winker said. "Reservists and Airmen preparing to go on deployments can store their weapons here, as well."

Keeping 100 percent accountability also means knowing all parts of assigned weapons inside and out, said Cash.

"Knowing every part of our weapons help us identify when something is wrong so we can catch it and correct the issue," he said.

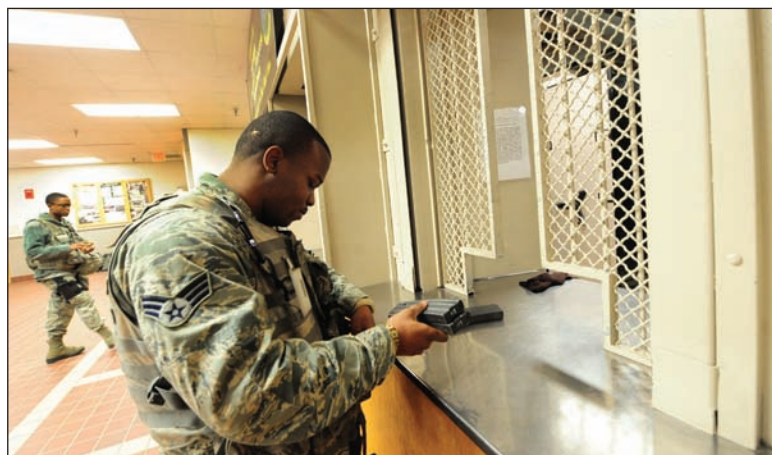
Cash said he gains a great deal of satisfaction after a full day of working in the armory compared to some of the other SF jobs for which he is responsible.

"I prefer doing something hands-on rather than sitting security and just watching the fence line," Cash said. "The sense of accomplishment comes from making sure things get done so those who are out on post can do their job. It makes me feel like I'm giving the Air Force the best for their dollar with what I do every day."

In addition to weapons and ammo, squadron armorers are also responsible for equipment such as night vision goggles, hand-held thermal imagers, batons, pepper spray and tasers. Since the supply section of the squadron is responsible for assigning initial equipment, the armory takes care of duty-specific items that are used in daily missions.

"Depending on where they are going to be posted, we give troops equipment specific to those posts," Cash said.

"We're the behind-the-scenes step to the mission," Winker said. "We make sure everything is ready for when the flights need to go out, accomplish the mission and fight the good fight."



ABOVE: Senior Airman John Harris, 509th Security Forces Squadron response force member, stows away M4 carbine magazines just before reporting to his assigned post at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., March 25, 2013. Members working in the armory are accountable for every weapon and piece of ammunition issued to security forces Airmen.

RIGHT: Airman 1st Class Grace Murphy, 509th Security Forces Squadron response force member, stores an M4 carbine magazine while receiving equipment from the armory at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., March 25, 2013. Members working in the armory ensure Airmen working on security forces posts have the weapons and ammunitions necessary to accomplish their mission.



Senior Airman Brian Winker, 509th Security Forces Squadron armorer, organizes M4 carbine equipment in the armory at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., March 25, 2013. Winker is responsible for knowing the whereabouts of more than 1,000 weapons valuing in excess of \$5 million.



Senior Airman Brian Winker, 509th Security Forces Squadron armorer, organizes equipment in the armory before issuing it to customers, Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., March 25, 2013. Winker is responsible for securing all the armory's assets, accounting for weapons, ammunition and equipment valuing more than \$5 million.



Airman Robert Sodeman, 509th Security Forces Squadron response force member, signs a hand receipt for a land mobile radio at the armory prior to the start of a 12-hour shift at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., March 25, 2013. The armory provides base personnel with the arms and equipment they need in their line of duty.



Airman Brandon Swisher, 509th Security Forces Squadron response force member, stores M240 machine gun rounds in the armory before being relieved from his 12-hour shift at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., March 25, 2013. More than \$5 million in equipment is housed within the armory.

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Stand down to stand up against sexual harassment and assault

By **Airman 1st Class Shelby R. Orozco**
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

In a world that often blames sexual assault or harassment victims for the wrongs done to them, celebrating and highlighting the strength of those brave individuals is a breath of fresh air.

Whiteman Air Force Base's Sexual Assault Prevention Office will be holding just such an event later this month. "Stand Down to Stand Up to Sexual Harassment and Assault," an all-day event, will be held on April 26, 2013, and will involve numerous activities and opportunities for education and awareness.

"Every year during April we will do something as a program here to support Sexual Assault Awareness Month," said Amy Creighton, 509th Bomb Wing Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program assistant. "This will be our third year putting on an event, but our first year putting on an all-day event."

The day will begin at 6:30 a.m. with a 5k Fitness Run in which the Equal Opportunity office will be helping with handing out water bottles and sports towels.

After the run, base personnel will participate in the annual

Denim Day event, which aims to make a social statement against sexual assault misconceptions by trading in a uniform for a pair of jeans — a pair that is in good condition is a must, though.

The event will have a national speaker, Jeffrey Bucholtz, who is co-president of the San Diego Domestic Violence Council and co-director of We End Violence.

All personnel are required to attend at least one of his presentations, which will be held at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. at the base club, and at 2:00 p.m. at the base theater.

Numerous leadership pathway classes will be offered throughout the day that all Airmen and dependents are invited to attend.

"Airmen at all levels can benefit from training on basic resilience and life skills," Creighton said. "Changing the focus from negative or problem focused to leadership and positive self-help allows Airmen to openly attend a class for themselves or to help others. It 'de-stigmatizes' the concept that you should only attend a class if a problem exists. It is geared toward developing skills for those who advise, supervise, mentor or teach."

A community fair will also be held from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the National Guard Armory.

The day will wind down to a close at 7:00 p.m. with the annual Take Back the Night event, which is family friendly.

"The 'Take Back the Night' event is a free and family-friendly evening to give our Air Force families the chance to learn about sexual assault in the military," Creighton said. "The event began as a way to protest the violence that women experienced while walking in public at night. The purpose of these events was to speak out against this violence and raise community awareness as a preventive measure against future violence."

The USO will be on hand serving dinner and the Kansas City band, American Slim, will be providing live entertainment.

"I'm extremely grateful for the amazing support we have from our Wing leadership," said Ann Beem, 509th BW Sexual Assault Response Coordinator. "They have allowed us the opportunity to focus on sexual assault prevention efforts. Whiteman has a large group of very dedicated Victim Advocates who have been a driving force in getting this day organized."

This is a first for the Whiteman SAPR program to have an entire day devoted to getting the sexual assault prevention message out to the community, Beem said.

Load competition showcases Airmen's perfectionism

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

One way Air Force Global Strike Command shows the value of superior technical and weapons system expertise is through quarterly weapons load competitions.

Airmen from Whiteman's 13th and 393rd Aircraft Maintenance Units competed in the first-quarter Load Crew of the Quarter competition April 12, 2013, to showcase teamwork, precision and attention to detail among Airmen in support of nuclear deterrence and global strike operations. "It provides a friendly rivalry between not only our crews in each AMU, but also between the two AMUs," said Staff Sgt. Michael Phillips, 13th Aircraft Maintenance Unit weapons loader. "It also provides us an opportunity to show efficiency, skill and our level of excellence as load crew members."

The competition showed how each team meshed together like puzzle pieces to ensure weapons were loaded in a timely manner. The 393rd AMU won the day's competition.

"My team recently formed at the end of last year, and our relationship has grown over the last few months," said Staff Sgt. James Buslon-Hernandez, 393rd AMU team chief. "Winning the competition proves just how well we work together."

In addition to fostering and highlighting teamwork, the competition also provided an opportunity for younger Airmen to see more experienced loaders in action, said Phillips.

"It showed some of the younger Airmen, especially the ones who maybe are not certified to do the job yet, where they should set their standards," Phillips said. "They come out here, they watch us, they watch the load and I think it [makes] a good impression on them. It also gives them some motivation to boost themselves above

their peers."

The loaders who competed were evaluated in a multitude of areas including timeliness, reliability, safety, order errors, a 25-question written test and a composite tool kit inspection.

"Reliability is an important part of any weapon load," said Master Sgt. Mikel Petersen, 509th Maintenance Operations Squadron loading standardization crew team chief. "If the weapon isn't reliable, then the pilot won't be able to kill the enemy."

Safety was an especially big deal for team chiefs. Not only did they have to ensure the munitions were efficiently loaded onto the aircraft, but they also had to supervise their team to ensure weapons loaders followed safety protocols.

"Our goal is to give the pilot a weapon that destroys the enemy," Petersen said. "In order to do this effectively, the crews must load weapons by following technical data and completing each task safely."

Maintaining this level of safety requires a great degree of skill on the part of weapons loaders.

"It can get difficult when you are focused on a task requiring your full attention, while trying to keep an eye on everyone else's safety in the immediate area," Buslon-Hernandez said.

The evaluators also judged Airmen on dress and appearance.

"We were quite strict when it came to AFI 36-2903," Petersen said. "Some write-ups were for matters as simple as strings hanging off of an Airman's rank insignia."

Attention to detail is also paramount when loading explosives onto a multi-billion dollar stealth bomber, Buslon-Hernandez said.

"Any mistakes made in a real-world, high-explosive operation involving gas-operated, heavy-lifting equipment can negatively impact the mission, or put lives in danger," Buslon-Hernandez said.

Airman 1st Class Jacob White, 13th Aircraft Maintenance Unit weapons loader, inspects munitions during a weapons load competition at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., April 12, 2013. The competition showed how each team meshed together to ensure weapons were loaded in a timely manner.



A weapons load team from the 13th Aircraft Maintenance Unit closes the weapons bay doors of a B-2 Spirit during a weapons load competition at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., April 12, 2013. The loaders who competed were evaluated in a multitude of areas including timeliness, reliability, safety, order errors, a 25-question written test, and a composite tool kit inspection.



Airman 1st Class Justin Sutherland, 13th Aircraft Maintenance Unit weapons loader, uses a jammer to place a munition in the weapons bay of a B-2 Spirit during a weapons load competition at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., April 12, 2013. The crews were evaluated on safety, reliability, dress and appearance, a knowledge-based test and tool kits, as well as by which team completed the most technically accurate weapons load.

Along with measuring attention to detail, the evaluators ensured both crews completed the loads within a 50-minute time limit.

Since both crews consisted of individuals that were handpicked and experienced, working within the time standards was not an issue, said Buslon-Hernandez.

"Along with experience comes speed," Buslon-Hernandez said. "In a competition, you naturally want to perform at your best, so it was important to throttle back and perform efficiently."

Airmen in the competition held ranks from airman first class to technical sergeant.

"When younger guys are teamed up with the best to compete in a load comp, there is a noticeable difference in performance," Buslon-Hernandez said. "Sharing that experience with them will help groom newer Airmen for success."

Overall, win or lose, the rewarding part of being a weapons loader is providing the business end of the mission to the enemy's back door, Buslon-Hernandez said.

It all comes down to demonstrating readiness to those who will be in the position to make key command decisions later down the road.



Airman 1st Class Justin Sutherland, 13th Aircraft Maintenance Unit weapons loader, inspects munitions during a weapons load competition at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., April 12, 2013. Airmen from Whiteman's 13th and 393rd Aircraft Maintenance Units competed in the first-quarter Load Crew of the Quarter competition that showcased the teamwork, precision and attention to detail among Airmen in support of nuclear deterrence and global strike operations.

"The competition allows us to show our skill to our leadership so they have confidence in us to do our job," Phillips said. "If it comes down to the wire and we need to put bombs on target, they know that they can count on us to do it."





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Take me out to the ball game



Brig. Gen. Thomas Bussiere, 509th Bomb Wing commander, salutes during the National Anthem prior to the University of Central Missouri's Military Appreciation Day baseball game at Crane Stadium/Tompkins Field, April 13, 2013, in Warrensburg, Mo. All military personnel, active and retired, and their families received free admission to the game.

Air Force officials announce civilian reduction in Force

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- In a continuing effort to meet the Department of Defense funding targets in the FY12 President's Budget and re-balance the civilian workforce, approximately 60 Air Force installations will implement civilian Reduction in Force authorities effective through about Aug. 23, to assist in the placement of employees not assigned against funded positions (termed "surplus employees").

These actions started in FY12 and are not related to the current sequestration actions.

To meet the funding targets in the FY12 President's Budget, the Air Force was required to reduce more than 16,000 civilian positions. The Air Force was able to successfully reduce approximately 15,000 positions minimizing adverse impact to civilian personnel, but now needs to use RIF authorities, which will provide options to help place most of the remaining civilians on unfunded positions.

RIF procedures allow greater flexibilities for employees to be placed at their installations and still retain their grade or pay. In addition, the use of RIF procedures allows for eligible employees who cannot immediately be placed in local vacancies to be registered in the Priority Placement Program (PPP).

"Voluntary efforts to balance the civilian workforce in FY12 have gotten us significantly closer to funded levels, but we still have a way to go in placing the number of surplus employees to funded vacancies, and RIF authorities will enable us to achieve that goal," said Brig. Gen. Gina Grosso, the director of force management policy for the Air Force. "The Air Force recognizes and strives to balance the invaluable contributions of our civilian workforce with the fiscal realities under



U.S. Air Force graphic/Sylvia Saab

which the Department of Defense and the government as a whole are operating. We continue to focus on minimizing the impact on our current civilian workforce and their families."

As the Air Force continues to shape the work force, starting the RIF procedures will provide installations greater flexibilities to further realign and rebalance the civilian force.

"Usually a reduction in force has negative perception, but the use of RIF procedures will allow many employees to be retained and continue employment with the Air Force," Grosso said. "We want to assure everyone involved with this process that we remain committed to minimizing the impacts during these times of transition."

The processes available use reduction in force procedures to determine employee placement rights into vacancies as well as provide the flexibility to waive qualifications to create more placement options.

RIF implementation is separate from current sequestration actions.

For information about civilian employment, reduction in force and other personnel issues, visit the Air Force Personnel Service website at <https://mypers.af.mil>.

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