

The Warrior News April 26, 2013

# **EPA recognizes Air Force** renewable energy efforts

By Jennifer Elmore

Air Force Civil Engineering Center Public Affairs

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla (AFNS) -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Top 50 list of Green Power Partners released this month ranks the Air Force number one in the Department of Defense and number two in the federal government for its purchase and on-site production of green power.

In 2012, the Air Force used 283 million kilowatt hours of renewable energy.

Since becoming a Green Power Partner in 2003, the Air Force has appeared near the top of the list among Fortune 500 companies such as Intel, Microsoft and Wal-Mart. The Air Force ranks 19th nationwide and is one of only four federal agencies in the top 50 -- the Department of Energy is 6th, the Environmental Protection Agency is 22nd and the Department of Veterans Af-

The Green Power Partnership is a voluntary program that encourages organizations to use green power as a way to reduce environmental impacts associated with conventional electricity

More than 6 percent of all facility electricity used by the Air Force came from green power sources in 2012. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 requires that number to increase to 7.5 percent this year. United States statute also requires the DOD to increase on-base renewable energy production to 25 percent by

"We're working to meet the mandates," said Ken Gray, the acting energy director at the Air Force Civil Engineering Center at Tyndall AFB. "We get a two-to-one return on what we invest

That means for every dollar the Air Force spends on an energy-focused reduction effort, it gets \$2 back to invest in the mission. This makes overcoming energy challenges worth the effort. Grav said.

The Air Force more than doubled its number of renewable energy projects in the past two years. There are 256 projects in operation or under construction on 89 installations, which include solar photovoltaic, solar thermal, geothermal in the form of ground source heat pumps, wind, daylighting and landfill gas.

The Air Force is also exploring the use of waste-to-energy and geothermal electricity production.

According to the Air Force Renewable Energy Game Plan, the Air Force will use enhanced use leases and power purchase agreements to add 488 megawatts of capacity by fiscal 2018. Seven projects are in construction including photovoltaic arrays in Arizona, California, Florida and New York; a landfill gas project in Alaska; and wind projects in Massachusetts and Ohio.

It can take up to two years or more to develop, gain approval and construct a renewable energy project. AFCEC is working with the Air Force secretariat level and the office of the secretary of defense to streamline the process.

Unforeseeable factors also affect renewable energy development. For example, a solar project that will provide half of the energy needed to power Luke AFB, Ariz., was put on hold in 2012 when crews unearthed artifacts dating back as far as 3,000

A wind project at Cape Cod Air Force Station, Mass., is moving forward watchfully as endangered eastern box turtles nest in the area. The construction area has to be swept by qualified turtle biologists, posing some slow-down to contractors, but engineers predict the project will remain on schedule, said Air Force Space Command Energy analyst Fox Theriault.

"The civil and foundation designs are complete confirming that the ground is solid enough to hold the weight of the wind turbines and the project can move forward," Theriault said. "General Electric plans to ship the two 1.68 MW turbines in late June and we hope to commission them in December."

There are also 40 renewable energy projects in the government validation or preliminary concept phases.



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# On the cover

Airman 1st Class Shelby R. Orozco

Captains Jennie Swiechowicz and Nicola Polidor, both 393rd Bomb Squadron B-2 Spirit pilots, support the B-2 mission at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., April 23, 2013. Swiechowicz and Polidor are the only women B-2 pilots currently at Whiteman.

Archaeologists excavate land Feb. 9, 2013, at Luke Air Force Base in order to make way for a solar array the base is planning to build. The excavation team has found thousands of artifacts dating back to 3000 B.C..

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

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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.

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#### WEATHER

Today	Saturday
Showers	Partly Sunny
Hi 57	Hi 64
Lo 48	Lo 46
Sunday	Monday
Sunny	Sunny
Hi 71	Hi 76
Lo 46	Lo 52

# **Diamond Sharp Winner**



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Montse Belleau

Staff Sgt. Jody Thomas, 509th Security Forces Squadron, receives the Diamond Sharp award from Master Sgt. Donald Gray, 509th Bomb Wing first sergeant, Apr. 23, 2013. The Diamond Sharp award recognizes Airmen who stand out to their first sergeants with outstanding performance.

# **USAF Test Pilot School (TPS) Selection Board**

**David J. Grisdale, SMSgt, USAF** Superintendent, Military Personnel Section

The next annual United States Air Force Test Pilot School Selection Board will convene July 23-26, 2013 at the Air Force Personnel Center. The USAF Test Pilot School is the world's preeminent fixed-wing test pilot school. USAF TPS graduates are future senior leaders who will be in high demand in an era of increasing combat technological advancements. USAF TPS trains pilots, combat systems officers, and engineers to develop, test and evaluate the newest aircraft and weapons systems. The manned pilot selects will fill positions in the fighter, multi-engine and helicopter categories. All other selects will fill positions in the fighter, multi-engine, and remotely

piloted aircraft categories. USAF TPS graduates will be awarded a Master of Science degree in Flight Test Engineering by Air University, which is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. In addition, USAF TPS conducts exchange programs with the U.S. Navy, United Kingdom, and French Test Pilot Schools to train fixed and rotary wing pilots and flight test engineers. Rotary wing pilots and engineers will be assigned to conduct testing on the latest rotary wing systems and special operations assets. Applicants from all aircraft types and backgrounds must have strong academic and technical experience and a desire to help develop the next generation of Air Force weapons and weapons systems. For more information, visit the TPS website: https://www.edwards.af.mil/units/usaftps/index.asp. Apply soon, as submissions are due in early June!

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

**David Easley**509 Bomb Wing Historian

28 April 1994: Pilots flying The Spirit of Missouri participated in a fly-over at Barksdale Air Force Base, La. It was the first time the B-2 had participated in such an event.

28 April 1998: The 509th completed another first when it successfully dropped the new deep-penetrating Joint Direct Attack Munition, the GBU-31(V)3/B. The test involved releasing four of the 2,000 pound weapons at the White Sands, New Mexico range against buried targets.

*30 April 1996:* The USAF revealed the existence of the technology demonstrator, TACIT BLUE, that had been secretly flown from 1982 to 1985 to test stealth technology. With its 56-foot

wingspan, Tacit Blue helped furnish the technology used to produce the B-2 Spirit bomber.

*1 May 1997:* The last of five B-2s upgraded from the block-10 configuration to the block-20 configuration arrived at Whiteman.

*3 May 1990:* An all-Air Force crew flew Northrop's B-2A for the first time. Lieutenant Colonels Tom LeBeau and John Small flew the Stealth Bomber on a 7-hour, 20-minute test flight above Edwards AFB, Calif.

*3 May 1997:* The last block-10 aircraft (AV11) returned to Palmdale for retrofit to block-30 configuration

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### News

# Missouri Guardsmen provide flood response assistance



Courtesy phot

Lt. Col. Lane Endicott, 131st Civil Engineer Squadron commander, talks with Clarksville City Councilman Randy Snell while the group surveys the progress of a 1,500 foot sandbag levee along the swollen Mississippi River in Clarksville, Mo., April 19, 2013. Approximately 50 Missouri National Guardsmen joined dozens of volunteers in Clarksville to do battle with the rising flood waters of the Mississippi River.

CLARKSVILLE, Mo. – Approximately 100 Missouri National Guardsmen recently joined dozens of volunteers to work in support of flood relief operations in affected areas of Missouri

After more than five inches of rain fell in parts of Missouri last week, Gov. Jay Nixon mobilized the National Guard on April 19, 2013, to help protect lives and property from rising flood waters,

especially along the Mississippi.

In addition to the weekend Guard response in Clarksville, about 50 soldiers were also called Monday to help with sandbagging operations in Dutchtown, about 150 miles down-river, near Cape Girardeau.

"Our Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen are true leaders and that's why I called them up to help with this fight," said Nixon, who toured Clarksville on Saturday with Maj. Gen. Steve Danner, adjutant general of the Missouri National Guard

"We pick flood-fights where we can win them, and this is certainly a flood-fight we are going to win through a smart emergency management plan and the work of the National Guard and some dedicated volunteers," Nixon added.

"We are always happy to come to the aide of our fellow Missourians," said Danner. "We will work directly with the Department of Public Safety, other state agencies and local authorities to answer this call. We are going to ensure that we strengthen that levee wall and do anything else we can to assist."

Within one hour of being mobilized, Airmen from the 121st Air Control Squadron, the 131st Civil Engineer Squadron and Soldiers from the 70th Troop Command were on their way to Clarksville. Once there, Guardsmen immediately began to assist with construction of a 1,500-foot sandbag levee protecting the historic city of 442 people.

Soldiers from the Hannibal-based 2175th Military Police Company were also called up to help with the effort.

"Our primary mission is to fill a lot of sandbags," explained Capt. Wesley Dickman, of Columbia, commander of the 2175th. "My troops have been working throughout the night to build up the main levee and the side levees protecting some of the buildings. The effort here is really impressive."

In addition to National Guardsmen, city officials, area residents, Boy Scouts and even prison inmates worked around the clock to build-up the levee wall in anticipation of the Mississippi's expected crest on Monday afternoon.

The National Guard response to the flooding was coordinated through "Task Force Bear," headquartered at Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis County.

The Guard's arrival in Clarksville was a welcome site to volunteers who had been working on the sandbag levee since April 17, 2013.

"With this kind of manpower, we can really get things done," said St. Louis resident Ray Wagner, one of many AmeriCorps volunteers working on the wall. "We really appreciate the Guard's help because we have several projects that we have not started yet."

"When AmeriCorps arrived on the scene we breathed a huge sigh of relief, and when the National Guard arrived we breathed a bigger sigh of relief," added Clarksville Mayor Jo Anne Smiley. "Their arrival has relieved us in so many ways I can't even describe it. This effort would not be successful without them."

Founded in 1817, Clarksville is no stranger to flooding and has adapted an impressive flood management plan that

See Guardsmen, page 10



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Members of Team Whiteman gather at Knob Noster State Park, Mo., to collect trash, April 20, 2013. Approximately 250 volunteers participated, including military members, spouses and children.

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

In preparation for Earth Day on April 22, members of Team Whiteman took time Saturday, April 20, 2013 to participate in providing trash collection service at Knob Noster State Park

Originally, the day was set up as a "geocaching" event by Senior Master Sgt. Anthony Escobedo, 509th Maintenance Squadron fabrication flight chief. Geocaching is a real-world, outdoor treasure-hunting game using GPS-enabled devices. Participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the geocache (container) hidden at that leasting

"We began organizing the geocaching event in conjunction with a trash cleanup for Earth Day," Escobedo said. "We

then thought since the Whiteman community was so close, and used the state park a lot, it would be a great opportunity for members of the base to join in on the effort. So I began to recruit members of the base to join in."

Escobedo said the results were outstanding, as approximately 250 volunteers showed up to participate.

"I was ecstatic at the turn-out," said Escobedo. "It is great to see Whiteman Airmen giving back to the community on their own time. We definitely made an impact on cleanliness!"

Team Whiteman members were joined by spouses and dependents in cleaning up the park. Volunteers headed out to the pickup site at 10 a.m. and the last of the volunteers did not leave until after 2 p.m.

"I think we were very successful in completing the mission," Escobedo said. "We wanted to clean up the park and we did that. We came away with over 130 bags of trash."

Knob Noster State Park offers a place for people to camp and hike, and Escobedo, along with the volunteers, felt it was import to help keep it clean.

"I love the state park and what it offers," said Airman 1st Class Devyn Ransom, 509th MXS aerospace ground equipment maintainer. "This is a place a lot of people like to enjoy,myself included, so to come out here and help keep it in good condition for anyone who wants to enjoy it was a great experience."

Escobedo praised the hard work of the volunteers and thanked each and every one of them for taking time out of their weekend to help a good cause.

"I would like to thank the squadron points of contact and everyone [who put forth] the time and effort to help clean the park," Escobedo said. "It's really important to keep places like the state park healthy for generations to come."



Airman 1st Class Manuel Gurrion (left), and Senior Airman James Davis and Airman 1st Class Devyn Ransom, 509th Maintenance Squadron aerospace ground equipment maintainers, prepare to pick up trash at Knob Noster State Park, Mo., April 20, 2013. Volunteers worked for more than four hours to cover as much of the park as they could during the cleanup.

Airman Manuel Gurrion (left), and Airman 1st Class Devyn Ransom and Senior Airman James Davis, 509th Maintenance Squadron aerospace ground equipment maintainers, pick up trash during a trash collection at Knob Noster State Park, Mo., April 20, 2013. Members of Team Whiteman were joined by spouses and dependents in carrying out the mass cleanup.





Airman 1st Class Devyn Ransom, 509th Maintenance Squadron aerospace ground equipment maintainer, picks up a piece of trash while participating in a trash collection at Knob Noster State Park, Mo., April 20, 2013. The event was organized to assist in Earth Day efforts.

# Spirit Gate upgrades keep Whiteman safe

Story and photo by Heidi Hunt

509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

The construction project to renovate the Spirit Gate entry control point is scheduled to be complete May 17, providing Whiteman with a new, non-lethal net barrier system, additional anti-ram cables and two new inspection lanes.

Currently, the 509th Civil Engineer Squadron and contractors are working within phase 3, of 4 phases, which includes maintaining inbound traffic only flowing through the Spirit Gate to the outbound lanes.

"This gives contractors more room to work with their heavy equipment in construction with the inspection lanes as well as removing the old barrier within the inbound lanes," said Staff Sgt. Jennifer Winkels, 509th CES project

The new system is more user friendly, according to Staff Sgt. Stephen Sutterfield, 509th Security Forces Squadron NCO in charge of confinement facility and alternate NCO in charge on police services.

"The net barrier is less likely to cause catastrophic damage to personnel or vehicles while providing the same stopping abilities as the barriers," Sutterfield said. "For the construction side of the house, the new search lanes are designed to drastically reduce the risk to security forces personnel when conducting vehicle searches because we have a designated location to conduct vehicles searches."

The Spirit Gate will remain as inbound traffic only scheduled through May 3, according to the project man-

"Once the old barriers are removed and the holes are filled with concrete then inbound traffic will be shifted from the outbound lanes to the inbound lanes and the same work will be done on the outbound side," Winkels said.

The net barrier has been tested and is fully operational, according to Winkels.



Staff Sgt. Jennifer Winkels, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron project manager; Senior Airman Christopher Cassmann, 509th Security Forces Squadron assistant police services; Tech. Sgt. Gregory Bowman, 509th SFS NCO in charge police services; watch as the barrier system is tested April 24, 2013, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. The system includes a new, non-lethal net barrier system, additional anti-ram cables and two new inspection lanes.

"Once it is fully activated, drivers will see the green traffic light turned on at the barrier," Winkels said. "Drivers need to pay attention to those traffic lights as well as the yellow flashing lights when approaching the intersection."

If drivers are approaching the intersection and the yellow lights activate and the street light transitions from green to yellow, then drivers need to stay clear of the barriers and sensor strips, which are just beyond the net on both sides and in both lanes.

"Additionally, drivers must adhere to the traffic signs and to the white strips painted across the lanes," Winkels said. "This also applies to the existing barrier systems at the Arnold and LeMay Gates."

Drivers are reminded to never stop on barriers.

"During rush hour(s), do not pack in the outbound lanes bumper to bumper -- doing so will slow down traffic," Win-

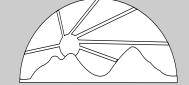
While the site is under construction the speed limit from the guard shack to Travis Lane is 15 mph. Upon project completion, the speed limits will return to the posted mph. Drivers need to adhere to all speed limits and barrier warning and signal lights.

"Security measures are put in place to keep Team Whiteman safe," Sutterfield said.

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# **Operation Spirit shows** the mission to children



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

Children and their parents are welcomed by Airman Leadership School students after returning from a mock deployment during Operation Spirit at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., April 20, 2013. Upon their return, the children participated in an awards ceremony and were given free lunch by the United Service Organization at Skelton Park. During the lunch children were able to walk around to view equipment from a variety of base units on display and participate in various events and games hosted by base organizations.

#### By Staff Sgt. Nick Wilson

509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

As the sun rises and glistens on the morning dew's reflection, a large pack of young laughing children chatters as they wait in anticipation for an opportunity to "deploy."

In support of the "Month of the Military Child," more than 125 children in the K-12 age group participated in the eighth annual Operation Spirit at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. April 20, 2013.

"This year we had a great turnout," said Senior Master Sgt. Mona Wendzillo, 509th Force Support Squadron Operation Spirit event coordinator. "The parents and kids were excited to participate."

The purpose of the event was to build resiliency in families and educate children on the deployment process, lessen fears a child might have about deployments and help them have fun in the process, she said.

"Operation Spirit helps children see what their parents go through," said Senior Airman Franklyn Kapuchuck, 509th Bomb Wing Airman Leadership School student and Operation Spirit Volunteer. "A lot of children from all ages see their parents de-

ploy and they never really understand fully what they're going through. This event helped the children understand why parents go through certain types of stress during deployments."

In addition to the entire ALS class also showing their support, more than 40 volunteers from organizations all over the base made this event possible.

"We were here to keep the kids excited," said Senior Airman Jennifer Ochoa, 509th Bomb Wing ALS student. "I think this event contributes to health, morale and welfare in a big way by showing children that what we do in the Air Force is important and letting them be a part of it."

Not only did the event boost optimism in children, but it also was a morale booster for members of Team Whiteman who volunteered, said Kapuchuck.

'While we are focused on our military education in ALS, it's also important to give back to the community and have some unwind time," he said.

Even though Operation Spirit was originally put together by the Airman and Family

#### See Operation Spirit, page 10



Children and parents take turns to view the cockpit of an A-10 Thunderbolt II Operation Spirit at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., April 20, 2013. The journey included a mission brief, out-processing through a deployment line and a simulated deployment on the flightline.

























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Airman 1st Class Steven Adler, 509th Security Forces Squadron response force member, looks down his iron sights to scan his area of responsibility during a training exercise at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., April 16, 2013. Exercises prepare security forces members to respond to real-world threats at a moment's notice.

Staff Sgt. Michael Krivitza, 509th Security Forces Squadron Phase I trainer, shows Airmen how to search a suspect during a law enforcement training exercise at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., April 16, 2013. Security forces members participate in several different types of training exercises throughout theyear to prepare for various threats and base emergencies.



Airmen 1st Class Stephanie Burjass and Joseph Dolan, 509th Security Forces Squadron response force members, help Airman 1st Class Isaac Fox, 509th Security Forces Squadron response force member, don protective equipment before he performs a breeching exercise at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., April 16, 2013. Breeching exercises prepare Airmen for situations that require them to break into a locked room or building.



Staff Sgt. Michael Krivitza, 509th Security Forces Squadron Phase I trainer, demonstrates the proper way to detain a suspect to new security forces Airmenat Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., April 16, 2013. Hands-on training exercises like this one give Airmen the knowledge and experience they need to respond to real-world scenarios.

# Training tomorrow's Defenders

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

Trained and skilled Airmen are critical to national defense, according to AFPAM 36-2241, "The Professional Development Guide."

Whiteman's Defenders contribute to America's safety 24/7 and are trained by a steadfast team of experts. These have a responsibility for ensuring all members of the 509th Security Forces Squadron have the knowledge and skills necessary for defending stealth firepower, protection-level resources and the Whiteman community.

"We provide training for everyone from the squadron commander to Airmen fresh out of technical school," said Staff Sgt. Michael Krivitza, 509th Security Forces Squadron Phase I trainer. "Regardless of rank or experience, everyone in our squadron must be trained on the duties that are specific to Whiteman because we have a very unique mission."

The 509th SFS employs three noncommissioned officers and two civilians who ensure training tasks are accomplished. Since SFS Airmen are on post around the clock, trainers are constantly adjusting their schedules to accommodate different flights.

"Anything we do in our career field is involved in a training task," Douglass said. "All pieces of the security forces puzzle, including weapons, tactics, vehicle maneuvers, traffic stops, hand cuffing, searching, building sweeps and protecting resources,

"We don't have the hours that most office jobs have because our mission doesn't take place in a normal work week," said Tech. Sgt. Jason Douglass, 509th Security Forces trainer. "Some days we could be here from sun up to sun down and we also have people working at night. There is also training that we have to provide during our off-time, so we work crazy hours all the time."

have tasks associated. There are contained to the cations that all of our people must implement those into our daily training that we have to and overwhelming for most Airmed and ove

A major part of being in the Air Force is being on call at all times, especially in the security forces career field, said Krivitza.

"I've been doing this long enough to know that my off-duty time can be taken at any given moment, so I'm prepared for it," Krivitza said. "I'd rather offset my schedule for Airmen to learn their job than have them stay late after working a full 12-hour night shift. I can change my schedule easier than they can change theirs."

Not only will Airmen benefit from knowledge imparted to them by the trainers, but the entire base and country benefit from the service Defenders provide, said Douglass.

"In addition to the squadron benefitting from the mission read-

iness we support on every level, America benefits on the bigger global picture from our training because we're mission-ready and we protect America's assets," Douglass said. "As we protect the B-2, America benefits from that security blanket all of our SF members provide day and night."

Providing training on security and law enforcement also means ensuring training material is current, said Krivitza.

"We want to give them the latest and greatest training we can as it comes down from Air Force Global Strike Command," Krivitza said. "Providing troops with the most recent information allows them to be more prepared. For example, the use of force regulation just changed. So we give that information to all of our Airmen and make sure they understand the changes that were made."

Douglass and Krivitza train Airmen on entry breaching techniques, law enforcement training, active shooter exercises, convoy operations and major accident response exercises, just to name a few

"Anything we do in our career field is involved in a training task," Douglass said. "All pieces of the security forces puzzle, including weapons, tactics, vehicle maneuvers, traffic stops, hand cuffing, searching, building sweeps and protecting resources, have tasks associated. There are certain tasks and critical certifications that all of our people must have. We develop, track and implement those into our daily training plan so they can protect the resources and people on base."

The large number of tasks and certifications can be difficult and overwhelming for most Airmen who are new to the security forces career field, said Krivitza.

"A lot of Airmen come into the military right out of high school and are working 14-hour shifts, 16-hour shifts and sometimes even longer shifts," Krivitza said. "Getting them in the mindset that they're always on call and keeping them mentally prepared for what they are going to encounter is a big part of our job."

When it comes to security, Defenders need to be prepared to handle any real-world situation they may face, Krivitza said.

"Having the training not only refreshes the minds of SFS members, but it helps build the muscle memory they need to complete the steps of each task," Krivitza said. "If a real emergency takes place, they can refer back to their training."



Senior Airman Adrian Alvarez and Airman 1st Class Steven Adler, 509th Security Forces Squadron response force members, scan their areas of responsibility during a training exercise at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., April 16, 2013. Training exercises ensure security forces members are able to accomplish all aspects of the mission, in part by understanding terms such as "area of responsibility," which refers to the zone of fire for which an Airman is responsible.

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### **News**

## Guardsmen Continued from Page 4



Members from the Missouri Air National Guard hoist rolls of plastic sheeting for use on a sandbag levee in Clarksville, Mo., April 19, 2013, as part of the Guard response to flooding along the Mississippi River. About 50 Guardsmen from St. Louis were mobilized to help construct the levee, which spans about 1,500 feet.

clearly impressed everyone who saw it implemented.

"This town has been here a long time and I expect that when the waters recede, Clarksville, Mo., will be open for business as usual," said Nixon.

Just as the flood-fight drew to a close in Clarksville April 22, soldiers of the Cape Girardeau-based 1140th Engineer Battalion and the 880th Engineer Team, based in Perryville, Mo., were called to fight floodwaters in Dutchtown.

"This is one of the reasons we put the uniform on; it's our way of giving back and protecting our community, and we are ready and prepared to help the community and people of Dutchtown," said 1st Sgt. Haskel Rooker, of the 1140th Forward Support Company.

The 121st Air Control Squadron and the 131st Civil Engineer Squadron are subordinate units of the 131st Bomb Wing, headquartered at Whiteman Air Force Base, in Knob Noster.

The 2175th Military Police Company is a subordinate unit of the Columbiabased 175th Military Police Battalion.

The 1140th Engineer Battalion and the 880th Engineer Team are part of the 35th Engineer Brigade, based at Fort Leonard Wood.

The 70th Troop Command is the largest brigade in the Missouri National Guard and is based at historic Jefferson Barracks.

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#### **Operation Spirit Continued from Page 7**

Readiness Center, organizations all over the base collaborated to make the event a suc-

"We relied heavily on the 509th Operations Support Squadron, the 509th Communications Squadron, the officer and enlisted spouse's clubs and volunteers all over the base," Wendzillo said. "Everyone on base comes together every year for this."

The Base Community Council and Kansas City Royals also pitched in with donations to help fund the event, she said.

Wendzillo has been leading the organization of the event for the last three years.

"I had the opportunity to see my daughter go through the event a couple years ago, and my son went through it this year," she said. "Because we have this event each year, a lot of the volunteers we have come back and do it the next year, so it's very fluid."

Because Airmen serving on active duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve participated in the event, the event also fostered total force integration, said Wendzillo.

'You see people from all ranks, squadrons and walks of life coming in to come in with their children and do the exact same thing," she said."We had a really good group."

Wendzillo said the support provided from all of the organizations on base also helped strengthen the spirits of families who have loved ones overseas.

"Families at bases want to see community activities," Wendzillo said. "By us coming out here, they're seeing that the military is here to support them. It shows that people care about each other and care about fami-





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Feature

The Warrior April 26, 2013 11

# Fulfilling a lifelong dream of flight



Capt. Jennie Swiechowicz, 393rd Bomb Squadron B-2 Spirit pilot, poses next to a B-2 at Whiteman Air Force, Mo., April 23, 2013. Swiechowicz has been a pilot for 10 years.

Story and photos by
Airman 1st Class Shelby R. Orozco
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

For Capt. Nicola Polidor, 393rd Bomb Squadron training flight commander, and Capt. Jennie Swiechowicz, 393rd BS B-2 pilot, their dreams of flying started at a young

"I always wanted to be an astronaut," Polidor said. "It was my childhood dream, and I knew I wanted to fly Air Force planes on the way to doing that."

Swiechowicz agrees, saying it looked exciting to her.

"The planes looked like a never-ending roller coaster," Swiechowicz said.

Both pilots started their careers flying other aircraft before transitioning to the B-2 Spirit here at Whiteman Air Force Base.

"When I graduated pilot training, I was assigned the B-52 Stratofortress," Polidor said. "It has a very similar mission to the B-2; it's a heavy, long-range bomber that does both nuclear and conventional missions, just like the B-2. It seemed like a logical progression

in my career."

Swiechowicz started her career as pilot for an E-3 Airborne Early Warning and Control (AWACS) Sentry.

"Although I loved working with the

AWACS crew and having 200 to 300 people in the squadron, I was looking for a challenge," Swiechowicz said. "The B-2 is the only airplane of its kind in the world, so the B-2 was that challenge."

Being female in a mainly male-dominated Air Force has not affected the two pilots; rather, they have viewed the demographic difference as a way to grow within their careers.

"I've always noticed that the population of women was small," Polidor said. "I was one of two or three females in my pilot training class of 40. I'm aware of my surroundings, but I have no problems working with males. They're great at their jobs and are a pleasure to work with."

Swiechowicz adds that the three different aircraft communities -- heavies, fighters and bombers—all have different demographic characteristics and relationship balances.

"I've been in all three for a little bit at a time," Swiechowicz said. "Women have been around longer in the heavy community so they aren't so much of a rarity; there's no setback just for being a female."

Being a B-2 pilot offers unique opportunities, said Swiechowicz.

"My office changes every day," Swiechowicz said. "I can be behind a desk doing paperwork and then I can go out and fly and see something different. Whether it's the jet I'm



Captains Jennie Swiechowicz and Nicola Polidor, both 393rd Bomb Squadron B-2 Spirit pilots, stand outside a B-2 hangar at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., April 23, 2013. Polidor and Swiechowicz are the sixth and seventh women ever to fly the B-2.

flying that day or the person I am talking to on the radio, it's always changing."

Both women have plenty of advice to offer to young Airmen looking to become a pilot.

"There are a lot of different options to become a pilot," Polidor said. "You can go to the Air Force Academy, you can go through ROTC, you could even be enlisted and work towards your bachelor's degree and then go to Officer Training School. It takes a lot of hard work; you need the desire and the drive to fly. I think drive and the love for flying are necessities to make it as a pilot in the long band."

The captains also have much to offer Airmen looking to excel in any military career, flying or not.

"You just have to work hard and know your regulations inside and out, especially when it comes to your job," Swiechowicz said. "Don't expect any advances just because you're a woman, or because you went to college, or something like that. Strive to always know the right answer. Stick to your guns."

Along with knowing their jobs Airmen have to be well-rounded, said Polidor.

"There are so many different facets of working in the military," Polidor said. "You need a combination of leadership and inspiration; you have to be able to answer, 'What are we really here for?' I think if you focus solely on flying, then you lose out on the rest of what being in the military means. It really

works out for you if you have a combination of all of those assets."

Outside of being pilots, both captains are married to military members, a relationship they both agree is special.

"My husband is also a pilot, and ever since the Air Force Academy we've been able to go home at the end of the day and relate on every minute detail of our days, whereas I don't think many other relationships are able to do [that]," said Polidor. "It's nice having someone I can talk to on a detailed level."

Even though the women share a special bond with their military husbands, the jointspouse relationship presents its share of difficulties.

"The hardest thing for me right now is wanting to have a family," Swiechowicz said. "We're both flying planes that theoretically will never be on the same base. That's our biggest challenge right now. We have to make decisions like who stays in, does someone get out, or do we both stay in and try to raise kids where somebody lives hours away? We only see each other about once a month. It's a challenge."

At the end of the day, the pilots are pleased to be working pieces of one of the Air Force's best aircraft

"If anything happens in the world, the B-2 is going to be involved," Polidor said. "We are very much involved in current operations throughout the world, which is very exciting and it's nice to be a part of that."



Captains Jennie Swiechowicz and Nicola Polidor, both 393rd Bomb Squadron B-2 Spirit pilots, are part of an elite group at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., April 23, 2013. Swiechowicz and Polidor both dreamed of flying while growing up.



Capt. Nicola Polidor, 393rd Bomb Squadron B-2 pilot, poses next to a B-2 Spirit at Whiteman Air Force, Mo., April 23, 2013. Polidor has been flying for eight years and is the 393rd BS training flight commander.

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### News



Airman 1st Class Curtis Esquibel, 509th Force Support Squadron services apprentice, prepares bacon at the Ozark Inn on Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., April 15, 2013. Prepping food early helps dining facility staff members stay on schedule in providing meal services throughout each shift.

Airman Eric Sadsad, 509th Support Squadron services apprentice, serves food to a customer at the Ozark Inn on Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., April 15, 2013. The dining facility takes pride in delivering outstanding customer service and maintaining professionalism.

# An appetite for dedication

**Story and photos by Airman 1st Class Keenan Berry** 509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

At Whiteman Air Force Base, Airmen depend on the dining facility to provide them with the energy they need to get the job done.

There are two dining facilities located at Whiteman to accommodate Airmen; one is located on the flightline and the other is the Ozark Inn. The purpose of the flightline dining facility is to help personnel who cannot eat at the Ozark Inn due to their busy schedules.

Airmen in the dining facility focus on customer service and excellence in all they do, said Airman Eric Sadsad, 509th Force Support Squadron services apprentice. They are driven to serve the Airmen of Whiteman.

The dining facility provides food service excellence in support of the Air Force readiness and peacetime mission.

The vision for dining facilities on base mirrors that of the larger Air Force vision, said 1st Lt. Diana Wong, 509th FSS food service officer – to provide food service professionals who build customer-oriented programs by creating innovative solutions responsive to tomorrow's needs.

Food service members perform tasks such as cooking, prepping, line serving, logging production, line set-up, temperature checks and cleaning.

Shift leaders supervise production to ensure personnel can perform these tasks with little to no discrepancies, said Sadsad.

In addition, Airmen in the facility work in shifts and are constantly prepring food.

In addition, Airmen in the facility work in shifts and are constantly prepping food for the next

shift to give them time to perform other given tasks.

"Depending on the amount of time, the shift before the next will cook the food and put it in the freezer to keep cool," said Sadsad. "This allows the next shift to take the food out of the freezer and warm it up using heated pans."

The flightline dining facility operates only during breakfast and lunch and has four Service members manning the area, said Staff Sgt. Travis Keele, 509th FSS flight kitchen manager.

The flightline dining facility serves as a convenience to members on the flightline who are unableto get to the general facility in time.

The flightline dining facility also plays a significant role in supporting the Whiteman mission and the B-2 Spirit.

"We specialize in long-duration meals for the B-2 pilots," said Keele. "Without them, the pilots cannot fly for long periods of time. Each long-duration meal is made to last within a 4-6 hour time frame, soif they are going to fly, they will order up to six meals at a time to make sure they get fed."

In addition to providing the actual food to customers, food services personnel have to maintain all their equipment – cleaning as they go, keeping accountability and paying attention to details.

The Ozark Inn receives inspections quite often to ensure they are upholding the military food code, said Staff Sgt. Alyssa Joseph, 509th FSS food service shift leader.

These inspections ensure there are no pests of any kind, that all food is being cooked, heated and stored at the correct temperatures and that it is not improperly exposed.

The Ozark Inn and the flightline facility continue to dedicate their services to Whiteman by working diligently to ensure they meet the needs of fellow Airmen around the base.



Airman 1st Class Jairzinho Chin, 509th Force Support Squadron services apprentice, restocks milk at the Ozark Inn on Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., April 15, 2013. Food service Airmen must continually replenish the food supply to ensure customers have a variety of selections.



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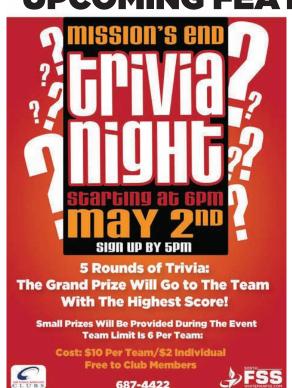
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8. Many offices on base are using old forms\*\*. If you would like a copy of the new ad form to keep in your office, call 687-6123 and we'll fax a new form for your use. Or, you can download it at http://www.whiteman.af.mil and click on "Whiteman Warrior Classified Ad Form."

9. Homes for sale that are listed with a realtor must be paid for. Only people who are PCSing and selling homes FSBO (for sale by owner) qualify as a free ad.

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16 The Warrior April 26, 2013

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