

WARRIOR

Year of the B-2

Vol. 4 No. 27
July 12, 2013

**4th of July
Celebration
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welcomes
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Carney
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Fixing the A-10

Maintainers keep A-10s operational, Pg. 11



USAFA Cadets Experience Whiteman AFB



Cadets from the United States Air Force Academy tour a B-2 Spirit stealth bomber, the "Spirit of Florida," during a visit to Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., June 28, 2013. The cadets were at Whiteman for their three week summer immersion program into the Active Duty Air Force.

By Lt. Col. (Retired) Frank Cavuoti

Whiteman Air Force Base is currently hosting ten Cadets from the United States Air Force Academy, located in Colorado Springs, Co. These Juniors (Cadets Second Class) will spend a total of three weeks experiencing the many diverse career fields available to them when they graduate from USAFA in 2015. During their visit, the Cadets got to experience B-2 Spirit Stealth Bomber operations as well as tour many of the different squadrons on base. The tours allowed the Cadets the oppor-

tunity to speak with Airmen throughout different career fields and gain a better perspective of the Air Force they will enter.

The Cadets also experienced the sights, sounds and cuisines of our local surrounding communities and were hosted by some very generous families to help them experience off-the-base family life, both in our supportive local communities and down at the Lake of the Ozarks. As the time closes out for our first visitors, a second group of Cadets will arrive to spend their own three weeks here at Whiteman.

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

Thanks to 2nd Lt. Andrew Glover, 509th Maintenance Group executive officer and Operation Air Force point of contact, and all who participated in the Cadets' experiences with us. If you see these up and coming officers around the base (or the follow-on group), please take a moment to chat with them and share your perspective. You can recognize them by their distinctive patches and "Prop and Wings" insignias on their flight caps. Welcome them to Team Whiteman – they can never "B-2" excited – and you can help them catch the Spirit!

Safety in the sun!

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Hang in the Shade

Get out and work your body — there are a million things to do! But hang out in the shade whenever you can. The sun is the strongest between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., so during those times, play hard in the shade, chill out under an umbrella, have lunch inside, or try some indoor activities for a change of pace.

Whether you are in the water, walking on the beach, or conquering the slopes, beware of the extra sun you get from rays bouncing off the surfaces around you. Remember: The sun can affect your skin any time — not just in the summer, in warm places or on sunny days. Use your head and get the right gear to protect yourself from the rays.

Cover up

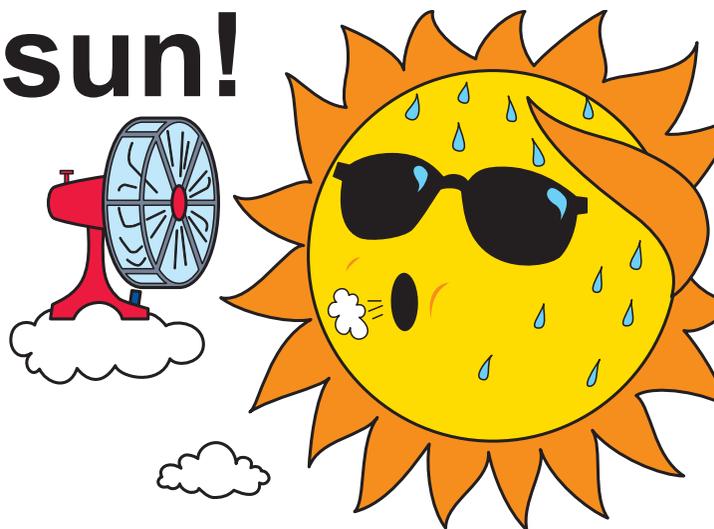
Obviously, when you put clothes between you and the sun's rays, they can't touch you! It's best to cover up as much as you can, but if it's too hot outside for long sleeves and pants, a beach cover-up or T-shirt and long shorts will do. Wearing a hat with a wide brim is great, but if you wear a baseball cap, just make sure you slap some sunscreen on your face, neck, and ears. Lightweight, see-through, or mesh clothing provides less protection.

Rub it on

Sunscreen with SPF 15 or higher, that is. You've gotta have the right stuff!

SPF stands for "sun protection factor," how well a sunscreen works at keeping the sun's burning rays from roasting your skin. For your information, SPF 45 and higher protects only a bit more than SPF 30 does. Make sure your sunscreen blocks both UVA and UVB rays (types of light).

You'll need to get a bottle, shake it, fill up a handful and slather it all over your body. (Yes, we said "handful." You need that much for



good coverage.) Put it on 30 minutes before you go out in the sun and remember to cover your face, lips, hands, forearms, shoulders, ears, back of your neck, under your chin and the top of your head. Watch your eyes — it could sting! If you're worried about breaking out, try a gel sunscreen. If your skin reacts badly to one brand, try another. Not all sunscreens have the same ingredients.

Apply, reapply and then do it again!

Even if the bottle says it's waterproof, sweat proof or any other "proof," you should reapply. Put more sunscreen on every couple of hours or right after swimming, working up a sweat or rubbing your skin with a towel or clothes.

And one more thing, wearing sunscreen protects you but it doesn't make it okay to stay in the sun longer. Try to stay out of the sun when you can.

Slip on Sunglasses

Gotta shield your eyes from the sun, too, right? Slip on some shades because the sun's rays can hurt your eyes. Choose some cool wraparound sunglasses that block 100 percent of UVA and UVB.

THE WARRIOR

Editorial Staff

Brig. Gen. Thomas Bussiere
509th Bomb Wing Commander

Capt. John Severns
Chief, Public Affairs

1st Lt. John M. Cooper
Deputy Chief, Public Affairs

Airman 1st Class Shelby R. Orozco
Editor

Photojournalists

Staff Sgt. Alexandra Boutte

Staff Sgt. Nick Wilson

Staff Sgt. Brigitte N. Brantley

Airman 1st Class Bryan Crane

Airman 1st Class Keenan Berry

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

On the cover

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

Airman 1st Class Lawrence Bowman, Detachment 303 Aircraft Maintenance Squadron structural maintenance apprentice, replaces nut plates on an A-10 Thunderbolt II at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. July 1, 2013. Nut plates are installed with rivets and ensure the leading wing does not tear off.

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 afca-survey@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.

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

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.

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
Sunny	Sunny
Hi 89	Hi 89
Lo 63	Lo 64
Sunday	Monday
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny
Hi 87	Hi 89
Lo 66	Lo 69

B-2 pilot lives dream



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Jason Huddleston
Maj. Ben Kaminski, 394th Combat Training Squadron commander, poses with Maj. Jasen Hunter before instructing him on his first ever B-2 Spirit stealth bomber flight at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., July 10, 2013. Hunter was chosen to train as one of four new pilots in the 69th B-2 Initial Qualification Training class.

By Lt Col (retired) Frank Cavouti

On a sunny Florida day at MacDill Air Force Base on October 26, 1996, a young man saw a B-2 Stealth Bomber in flight for the first time. Jasen Hunter, just graduated from high school, witnessed the Naming Ceremony fly-by for the Air Force's newest B-2, the Spirit of Florida. Something caught his spirit, and the rest is history.

Two weeks later, Hunter enlisted in the Air Force and spent two years as an Airman before being accepted into the U.S. Air Force Academy Prep School. After receiving his commission, he spent three tours as an instructor pilot and a KC-10 Extender pilot.

Throughout his tours flying trainers and tankers, Hunter never gave up his dream to someday be involved with the B-2.

Last year, Hunter applied for and interviewed in the highly competitive selection process to become a future B-2 pilot. During his interview with the previous 509th Bomb Wing commander, Brig. Gen. Scott Vander Hamm, they were both surprised to find a common point: Vander Hamm was the pilot who flew the Spirit

of Florida during the naming ceremony that sparked Hunter's life-long dream.

Once the selection process was complete, Hunter was chosen to train as one of four new pilots in the 69th B-2 Initial Qualification Training class.

Now with his wife, Angela, and two daughters, Savannah and Charlotte, he took the final step on a journey that began in 1996, and on July 10, now-Major Hunter became the community's newest B-2 pilot with assistance from his instructor pilot, Maj. Ben Kaminski.

In a tribute to the inspiration that first set Hunter on the path to Whiteman, Team Stealth was able to work the schedule so Hunter flew his first B-2 ride ever in the exact same aircraft that he initially saw fly during the ceremony back in 1996.

In his own confident but unassuming manner, Hunter said, "I am not quite sure how this become a reality, but I do know for sure that many, many good people helped me get here and made it happen... thanks."



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Jason Huddleston
Maj. Jasen Hunter, 394th Combat Training Squadron B-2 pilot, gets ready for his first ever B-2 Spirit stealth bomber flight at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., on July 10, 2013. Hunter first saw the B-2 in flight during high school and then made it his mission to one day fly the B-2.

Around Air Force Global Strike Command



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Marianique Santos
A B-52 Stratofortress from the 23rd Expeditionary Bomb Squadron at Minot Air Force Base, N.D., launches July 2, 2013, from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. The deployment to Guam is for an ongoing military effort to provide a continuous bomber presence in the Western Pacific.

Diamond Sharp Award Winner



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Alexandra Boutte

Master Sgt. Donald Gray, 509th Comptroller Squadron First Sergeant, presents the Diamond Sharp Award to Airman 1st Class Gwendolyn Benedict, 509th Bomb Wing staff administrator, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., July 3, 2013. The Diamond Sharp Award is the First Sergeants Council's recognition for Airmen who have stood out while performing the mission. Benedict dedicated 15 hours at the Sunny Hills Equine Rescue-Rehabilitation Center, working with abandoned and abused horses. She is a valued member of the Bomb Wing Staff soccer team, contributing to the team's five victories in the first half of the season and aiding in the team making the base finals.

509th MXG Assumption of Command



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

Col. Chase McCown assumes command of the 509th Maintenance Group at a ceremony presided over by Col. Kristin Goodwin, 509th Bomb Wing vice commander, at Whiteman Air Force Base, July 9, 2013. The 509th MXG has a history of providing well-maintained aircraft in support of the nation's best pilots.



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Team Whiteman attends 4th of July celebration



Fireworks are showcased during a 4th of July celebration at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., July 3, 2013. In addition to the fireworks display, the event included a number of activities including pony rides, live music and games for adults and young children.



Staff Sgt. Kira Otero, 509th Force Support Squadron, plays with her son during a 4th of July celebration at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., July 3, 2013. The day included a number of activities including karaoke with a live disk jockey, free games, rides, contests with prizes and a fireworks display.



Aleiram Castro, 509th Force Support Squadron, sings during a 4th of July celebration at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., July 3, 2013. The event included a number of activities such as pony rides, a fireworks display, karaoke, face painting and games for adults and young children.



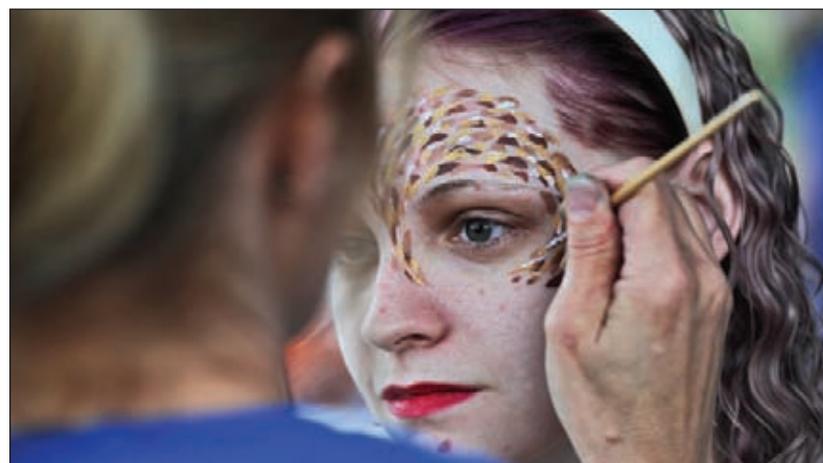
Vehicles are showcased during a car show for members of Team Whiteman to view during a 4th of July celebration at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., July 3, 2013. Base members and their families took part in the celebration, which was hosted by the 509th Force Support Squadron.



John Miller, lead singer of the Mojo Doggs, a local Rock band, sings to an audience during a 4th of July celebration at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., July 3, 2013. In addition to the free music, the afternoon's events also included a fireworks display and free games for people of all ages.



Children play games on a bouncy castle during a 4th of July celebration at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., July 3, 2013. People of all ages were treated to free games, music and a fireworks display as part of the celebration hosted by the 509th Force Support Squadron.



Katelyn Paul, wife of Senior Airman Kevin Paul, 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, gets her face painted during a 4th of July celebration at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., July 3, 2013. In addition to face painting, the event also included a car show, a fireworks display, a petting zoo and bouncy castles for children to play on.

From Jennies to jets to stealth bombers: 90 years of the 131st Bomb Wing and 110th Bomb Squadron



U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Michael Ammons

Eagles & Sparrows - This formation of F-15 Eagles assigned to the 131st Fighter Wing, 110 Fighter Squadron, Missouri Air National Guard, simultaneously fire AIM-7 Sparrow radar-guided air-to-air missiles at a MQM-107 "Streaker" sub-scale aerial target drone over the Gulf of Mexico during a weapons evaluation mission. The Eagle pilots who fired these missiles are, from near to far, Colonel John "JB" Kelk, 131st Operations Group Commander, Major Chris "Scratch" Young, Major Mike "Father" Flanagan, and Lieutenant Colonel Steve "Daihatsu" Dasuta. The unit participated in the Air-to-Air Weapons System Evaluation Program (WSEP) commonly referred to as Combat Archer that is hosted by the 83rd Fighter Weapons Squadron located at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.

Senior Master Sgt. Mary-Dale Amison
131st Bomb Wing Public Affairs

(Editor's note: This is part four of a five-part series.)

The dramatic events of Sept. 11, 2001, led the wing to stand up to full alert within eight hours of the initial terrorist attack, with several units mobilized within days. Throughout the following months, wing members mobilized or deployed in support of operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn. Despite the demands of high tempo global operations and response to natural disasters, the 131st continued to fulfill its daily training missions and excel in higher headquarters-directed inspections.

During the winter of 2001 to 2002, the 131st FW completed a 90-day air expeditionary force rotation in Keflavik, Iceland, allowing other units to support other global operations.

In fall 2004, the unit began its transition from the F-15A/B to the F-15C/D model aircraft, becoming the first combat-coded F-15 unit in the Air National Guard to have the C-models. In August 2005, the 131st FW became the first operational ANG unit to fully fly the F-15C model.

In the late summer of 2005, 131st FW members were among those to deploy to the Gulf Coast to assist with hurricane relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. In St. Louis, wing personnel worked in concert with local officials to establish a shelter for evacuees expected to arrive in St. Louis. Although it was prepared, the shelter was never used.

The Defense Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC) in 2005 ushered in yet another change for the 131st FW and 110th Fighter Squadron, proving to be both dramatic and historic. As a result of BRAC law, the F-15 Eagles were scheduled for withdraw from the Missouri ANG, but 100 percent manning remained in place, readying the wing to accept a new mission.

In March 2006, the Department of Defense announced that the 131st would become an ANG associate unit at Whiteman AFB. While the active duty would have primary ownership

over the aircraft, Missouri's Guardsmen would maintain and fly the B-2 Spirit stealth bombers alongside their active duty counterparts.

During the summer of 2006, severe storms swept through Missouri, resulting in massive power outages. Missouri called on its National Guard to provide equipment and manpower to support the community. The Airmen of the 131st FW responded to the crises. Efforts were repeated after an ice storm struck the region in December 2006.

In September 2006, the B-2 "Spirit of Pennsylvania" became the first B-2 to land at Lambert International Airport when it made a visit to the 131st FW to familiarize wing members with their upcoming mission.

2007 and 2008 saw planning and preparation to fully implement the new B-2 mission and the start of the departure of F-15C aircraft for their new home at other bases. The first four aircraft left Lambert Field mission ready to assume their new duties in Montana in August, 2008.

Flooding again struck the Missouri region in summer of 2008 and Citizen Airmen answered the call around the metro region in support of the natural disaster. While not as devastating and far reaching as the flood of 1993, the 131st FW proved yet again their willingness to help in their communities.

During 2008, members began to transfer to Whiteman AFB, Mo., in support of a new mission to maintain and fly the B-2 Spirit stealth bomber. The Missouri ANG would operate alongside the 509th Bomb Wing of the active duty Air Force in classic associate role becoming the first ANG unit in the B-2 mission.

On June 18, 2008, Col. Gregory Champagne, 131st FW vice commander, and Maj. David Thompson, 131st FW, achieved a major milestone in the transition to the B-2 mission by completing the first B-2 sortie flown and launched by Missouri ANG personnel. Fall 2008 saw the ribbon-cutting ceremony at Whiteman AFB of Bldg. 3006, the headquarters to "Detachment 2" of the 131st FW.

Additional content for this story was provided by Charles Machon (Missouri State National Guard Museum curator).

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How victim advocates help the healing

Staff Sgt. Brigitte N. Brantley
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Guilt. Shame. Disbelief that anything like this could ever happen.

For victims of sexual assault, the crime committed against them is a violation of their bodies that can never be undone.

Though it is something they will carry with them for the rest of their lives, they don't need to bear the burden alone. Across the Air Force, victim advocates offer an understanding heart and a steady shoulder to cry on.

The moment a victim decides to report the crime is the moment the victim advocate steps in, ready to be a steadying force during the emotionally trying time ahead.

From medical appointments to legal consultations, these "VAs" go through the reporting process with the victim. They offer far more than just a sympathetic ear — in reality, they devote a part of themselves in providing a calming presence in an unexpected and violent storm.

"Sitting next to a victim, it's easy to feel helpless," said Senior Airman Staci Cooper, a victim advocate and 509th Operations Support Squadron wing scheduler. "You wonder, 'How can I make this better?' But there really is no making it better ... all we can do is be there."

Cooper herself is a survivor of childhood sexual abuse. Throughout her life she thought it was the norm until she joined the Air Force and was stationed at Whiteman. Once she got here and was assaulted again, she went straight to the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator's office.

"Before then, I never got a chance for my voice to be heard," she said. "The VA who was paired up with me was just awesome. When you're assaulted, you lose all control over your life and she helped me regain some of that power. I was finally able to heal from the things that happened in my past."

Seeing the effect a VA could have on a victim's healing process spurred Cooper to become an advocate herself. Now, she and other VAs dedicate themselves to help others who decide to come forward take an important step in that process.

"When that person walks into our office, they are coming to us as a victim," said Amy Creighton, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program assistant. "When they walk out, we want them to be leaving as a survivor."

"The role of victim advocates is priceless," she added. "They are people who genuinely care about what happened and are ready to guide anyone through the process. When a victim knows what's ahead of them, the task of reporting the assault can be less daunting."

Getting to a point where a victim is ready to report is always varied, but it is never an easy choice. Often, shame or guilt over what happened stops him or her from coming forward.

It can be easy to worry that reporting a sexual assault might affect one's career,

especially in the Air Force. The individual may also fear the impact a report may have on interpersonal relationships with co-workers and colleagues.

"It's important that victims know what happened to them may shape them, but it surely doesn't define them," said Master Sgt. Anthony Axton, a victim advocate and 442nd Maintenance Squadron accessory flight chief. "Nobody at any time should ever be subjected to something like this; men and women don't ask to be assaulted. But if they are, and decide to come forward, a victim advocate will be waiting to help them."

As a male advocate, Axton has yet to be called upon to help a sexual assault victim, so instead he has played another important role in the healing process: working with the victim's male significant other.

"Sexual assault is a crime that really affects everyone around the violated person," he said. "A male's instincts are to be the protector and it's easy to feel helpless when someone hurt the woman we love in that way. But if you as a husband or boyfriend are so mad or upset that you take matters into your own hands and seek revenge, you won't be there to support your loved one when they need you."

Axton added that it is also hard for the spouse or significant other to accept the drastic changes a tragedy like sexual assault can have on a relationship.

"Part of my role as a VA is also to help them answer questions like, 'Why won't she let me touch or hug her anymore?'" said Axton. "I help them understand what their piece in the puzzle will be as the victim puts her life back together, and I help them understand they need to not act out."

As victim advocates guide the victims and their families down the path of healing, they strive to be approachable and discreet.

"When you're with a victim advocate, nobody knows it," said Cooper. "Nobody knows who we are — you could just be having lunch with a friend or heading to legal for another reason. We put the victim's privacy in the forefront of everything we do, and it's important they know that."

Cooper added it is also important for victims to see action being taken.

"Some people might not make an unrestricted report because they think, 'Hey, I'm going to go through this horrible process and not see anything get done about it,'" she said. "But with all the importance wing leadership places on it and given the level of priority for sexual assault prevention in the Department of Defense, action is being taken and that encourages more victims to come forward."

For questions regarding victim advocates or any other sexual assault prevention or response issues, please call the Whiteman SARC office at (660) 687-7272.

No matter the type of report, however, anyone who has experienced the trauma and heartache of sexual assault should know they have a friend in the victim advocates.

A GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY...

By Staff Sgt. Alexandra M. Boutte
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

Even the littlest things we encounter as a child can have an effect on our lives as we grow older.

Master Sgt. Kenneth Hampton, 509th Medical Group NCO-in-charge of education and training, crafts custom light sabers in his spare time.

"I saw 'Star Wars' for the first time in theaters in the summer of 1977, when I was 7 years old," Hampton said. "I have seen every theatrical release since to include going to a movie theater in Turkey to see Episode III."

Covered in "Star Wars" merchandise, his desk symbolizes his admiration for the movie and the craft behind it.

"I have always wanted to have a realistic lightsaber of my own," he said. "I looked around and found that the affordable sabers looked too simple and the beautifully handcrafted sabers either weren't for sale or

they were too expensive."

Hampton started building his own light saber, 'Transparency,' in February 2013.

"I started with 'Transparency,'" he said. "I sat down at my computer and sketched out ideas. I only knew a few things for sure; I wanted a very particular shape and a crystal chamber similar to one I had seen in the movies, but I had no real idea how I was going to pull it off."

Hampton researched online and started formulating his plan. He didn't want it to look like an existing light saber; he wanted it to be a one-of-a-kind.

"I have adopted that philosophy for all of my builds as well," Hampton said. "I will never duplicate a design or replicate an existing light saber. I might re-imagine a design, but at the end of the day, every customer gets a light saber like no one else in the world will ever have."

Hampton doesn't do it for the money, but for the love of the craft.

"I pour my heart, soul and passion into each design," he said. "I have enlisted some help, though. My daughter, Allie, recently graduat-

ed high school and will take over some administrative things for me."

Allie got her first light saber, 'Crucible' when she was 17 years old.

"I name most of the light sabers I make," he said. "I chose the name, 'Crucible,' for my daughter's because she is leaving childhood and going through adulthood. It seemed to fit."

Allie and her dad are interested in the same things; there was no surprise when she accepted the challenge to help her.

"I am a nerd, just like my dad," Allie said. "I love 'Star Wars' just as much and when I heard he was thinking about making this into a business I knew I wanted in."

Hampton also shares his knowledge with a few apprentices who want to learn what he does.

Although Hampton does this in his spare time, he hopes one day he can make a good living doing what he loves most.

"In a couple of years I will retire from the Air Force and if I can make a decent living building light sabers full-time, I will be a very happy man," he said.



The light sabers' hilt is made of 1/8 inch thick aluminum tubing and the blade is made of 1/8 thick polycarbonate tubing.



Airman 1st Class Shelby Orozco, 509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs photojournalist, and Master Sgt. Kenneth Hampton, 509th Medical Group NCO-in-charge of education and training, test the durability of Hampton's light sabers, May 7, 2013. Hampton wanted a particular shape and a crystal chamber for his light sabers similar to one he had seen in the "Star Wars" movies.



Master Sgt. Kenneth Hampton, 509th Medical Group NCO-in-charge of education and training, crafts custom light sabers in his spare time. He was inspired to create lightsabers after watching "Star Wars" for the first time when he was 7 years old.



Hampton never duplicates a design or replicates an existing light saber.



Inspired by "Star Wars," Hampton started building his own light saber, 'Transparency,' in February 2013.

U.S. Air Force
photos and illustration/
Staff Sgt. Alexandra M. Boutte

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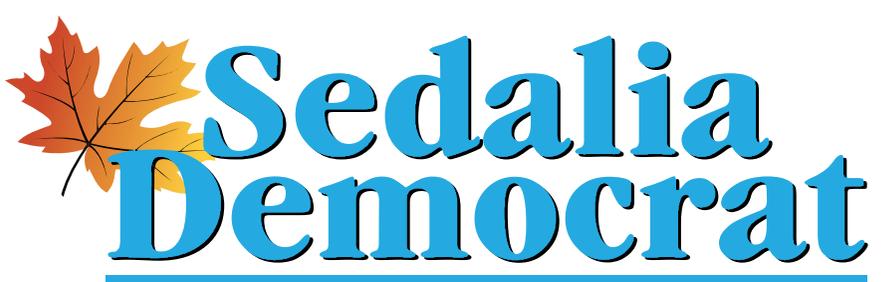
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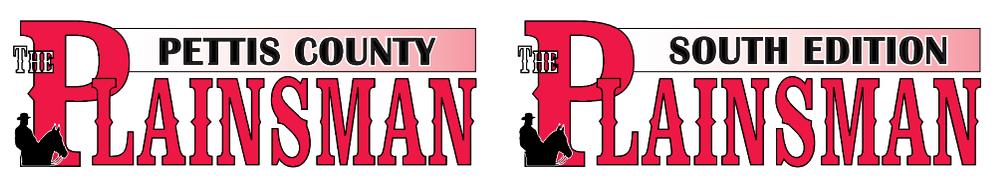
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‘When it gets broken, MXS gets fixin’

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

The A-10 Thunderbolt II is an aircraft designed for battle, equipped with a wide variety of conventional munitions and a highly accurate and survivable weapons-delivery platform. The aircraft can loiter near battle areas for extended periods of time and operate in low ceiling and poor visibility conditions to support ground troops.

Despite its mechanical prowess, the A-10 jet requires a 1-2 phase inspection every 500 hours to ensure the aircraft is functioning properly.

The 442nd Maintenance Squadron structural maintenance shop works behind the scenes fixing and repairing aircraft parts that have been damaged.

While in flight, the A-10 jets are faced with the dangers of bird strikes, inclement weather and the recoil from armament usage. While undergoing repair in the shop, they are threatened by human error.

When flying at more than 300 miles per hour, birds the size of hawks could cause damage to the A-10’s windshield, body or wing. Extreme weather, such as hail, can cause dents to the body of the aircraft. Each time a weapon is used, it vibrates the air frame, which could result in cracks. Lastly, human error involves the possibility of stands and tools being dropped while in use, according to Master Sgt. Gary Rose, 442nd MXS flight chief.

To combat these issues, the 442nd MXS A-10 phase hanger crew members are constantly inspecting the A-10 jets by de-paneling and breaking them down to find any internal discrepancies. Once the damaged parts are identified, they are sent to the structural maintenance shop for repair, according to Staff Sgt. Aaron Williams, 442nd MXS structural maintenance apprentice.

“The 442nd A-10 phase hanger crew members handle the inspection side while we work on the skin and skeleton of the aircraft,” he said. “We fabricate new parts to replace damaged parts and use rivet plates, which are attached to the aircraft’s wings and hold the screws in place, to the aircraft’s body.”

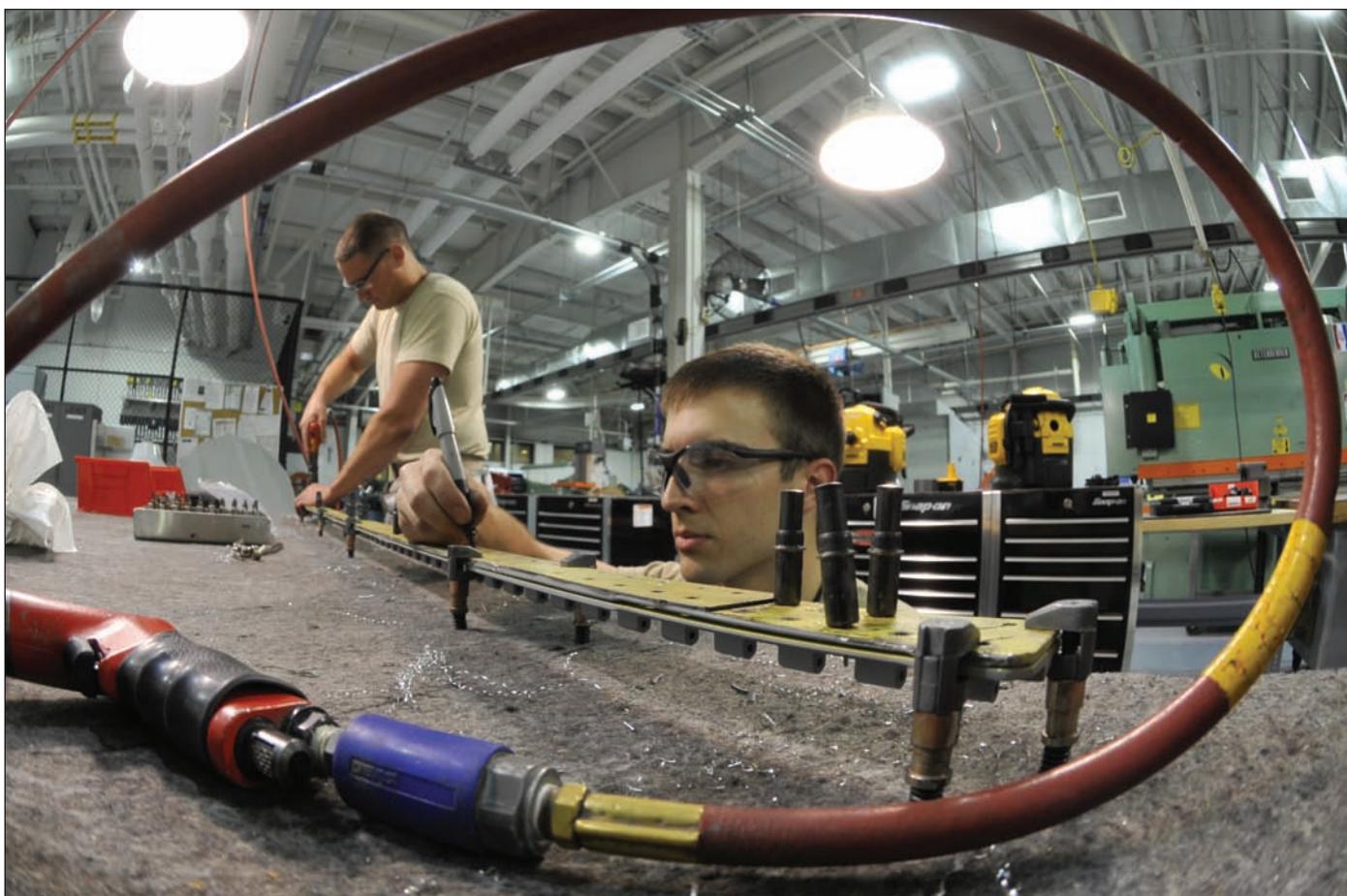
Like their crew member counterpart, the structural maintenance shop uses an array of tools to fix or repair the aircraft parts, according to Williams.

“We use tools such as hand drills, tubing equipment and bending machines,” he said. “We use the hand drills to drill rivets into panels, tubing equipment for hydraulic lines and bending machines, such as the concise, and the box and pan power brakes to fabricate flat metal to different angles for the A-10 jets or local manufacturers.”

Williams added that they paint and repair any aerospace ground equipment dealing with the aircraft such as the hydraulic mule. Anytime the aircraft’s hydraulic systems are ground-operated, a hydraulic mule takes the place of the pumps on the engine to work the aircraft’s flight controls, weapons and flaps.

Despite the rigorous task of ensuring the A-10 jet remains in top fighting condition, the passion, hard work and dedication to get the job done is displayed daily by the 442nd MXS.

“I’ve been doing this since 1989,” said Rose. “I love the people I work with and every day is new.”



Airman 1st Class Cody Knott and Senior Airman Paul Goodrow, both Detachment 303 Aircraft Maintenance Squadron structural maintenance apprentices, replace an A-10 Thunderbolt II’s door hinge at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. July 1, 2013. The old hinge is removed from the door and is used as a template to align the holes in the new hinge. If the hinge is old and worn out, the A-10’s door will not open.



Airman 1st Class Lawrence Bowman, Detachment 303 Aircraft Maintenance Squadron structural maintenance apprentice, removes nut plates on an A-10 Thunderbolt II at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. July 1, 2013. Rivets are installed to hold the nut plates and keep the leading wing from tearing off.



Airman 1st Class Lawrence Bowman, left, Detachment 303 Aircraft Maintenance Squadron structural maintenance apprentice, and Staff Sgt. Aaron Williams, 442nd Maintenance Squadron structural maintenance apprentice, clean foreign object debris off the A-10 Thunderbolt II’s wing at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. July 1, 2013. This is a requirement for each operational procedure done on the A-10 jet to prevent damage from FOD.



Airman 1st Class Lawrence Bowman, Detachment 303 Aircraft Maintenance Squadron structural maintenance apprentice, and Staff Sgt. Aaron Williams, 442nd Maintenance Squadron structural maintenance apprentice, review technical orders at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. July 1, 2013. The structural maintenance shop must adhere to set procedures for repairs made to the A-10 Thunderbolt II for safety precaution, low material cost and proper usage.

New 131st command chief brings experience, sense of family to position

By Airman 1st Class Nathan Dampf
131st Bomb Wing Public Affairs

The 131st Bomb Wing's new command chief, who serves as the primary advisory to the commander on matters concerning the mission, effectiveness, readiness, training, health, welfare and morale of more than 1,100 Missouri Air National Guard members, has spent more than a quarter century preparing for his new position.

Chief Master Sgt. Paul Carney, who has been with the Missouri Air National Guard for more than 25 years, worked his first unit training assembly as the new command chief master sergeant of the 131st Bomb Wing in June.

"I carry the responsibility to be the eyes and ears of the enlisted personnel," Carney said. "But I'm never an individual who thinks he has all the answers. I am surrounded by highly motivated and intelligent members, both officer and enlisted, who provide me with valuable input."

At the top of his list "to-do" list, Carney, the former aircrew flight equipment superintendent says he wants to ensure the wing's achievements do not go unnoticed.

"We get so wrapped up in day-to-day business, when people do awesome things, sometimes it gets overlooked," said Carney. "I think recognizing and em-



131st Command Chief Master Sgt. Paul Carney speaks with several members of the wing during a recent drill weekend.

bracing the wing's achievements and emphasizing sincere thanks to the Airmen is important."

Recognizing those achievements of the enlisted force is more than a professional priority to Carney. It's personal.

Carney has three children. Two belong to the Air National Guard. His daughter, Amber, is a full-time technician in the

logistics squadron at the 126th Air Refueling Wing with the Illinois Air National Guard. His son, Paul, followed in his father's footsteps at the 131st as an aircrew flight equipment specialist. Asked whether his third child will be joining the Air National Guard, Carney replied "Not yet."

The personal connection and 25 years of experience working with the officers

of the 131st make Carney a perfect fit for the command chief job. Additionally, he is involved in the Air Force Association, the Air Force Sergeants Association, the Missouri National Guard Association and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States.

From a humble background, Carney credits his own enlistment to his uncle, Elvis Coleman, who served in the Air Force in the 1970s. The new command chief began his career in the active duty Air Force in 1983 after he graduated from Dexter Senior High School in 1982.

Spending his entire career in the aircrew flight equipment field, the chairman of the 131st Chief's Council is used to taking on responsibility. Tasked with ensuring all of the equipment in the aircraft is properly maintained and installed, the field protects the lives of pilots every flight. Now, responsible for the careers of the 131st enlisted Citizen-Airmen, Carney maintains open communications as he stresses the needs of the enlisted force to command, and those of command to the enlisted force.

"I take very seriously the trust and responsibility given to me," Carney said. "It is an honor and privilege to serve as the 131st command chief. I am humbled by the fact that Col. Francis has allowed me this great opportunity."

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509th MDSS Assumption of Command



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Shelby R. Orozco
Lt. Col. Kenneth Perry Jr. assumes command of the 509th Medical Support Squadron during an assumption of command ceremony at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., July 2, 2013. Perry received the guidon from Col. Theresa Rodriguez, the 509th Medical Group commander.

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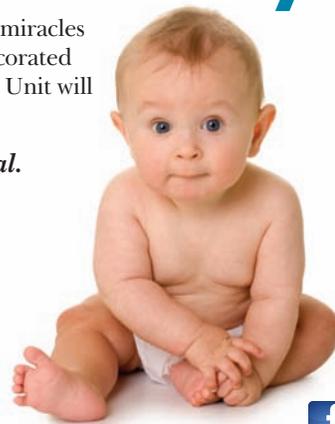
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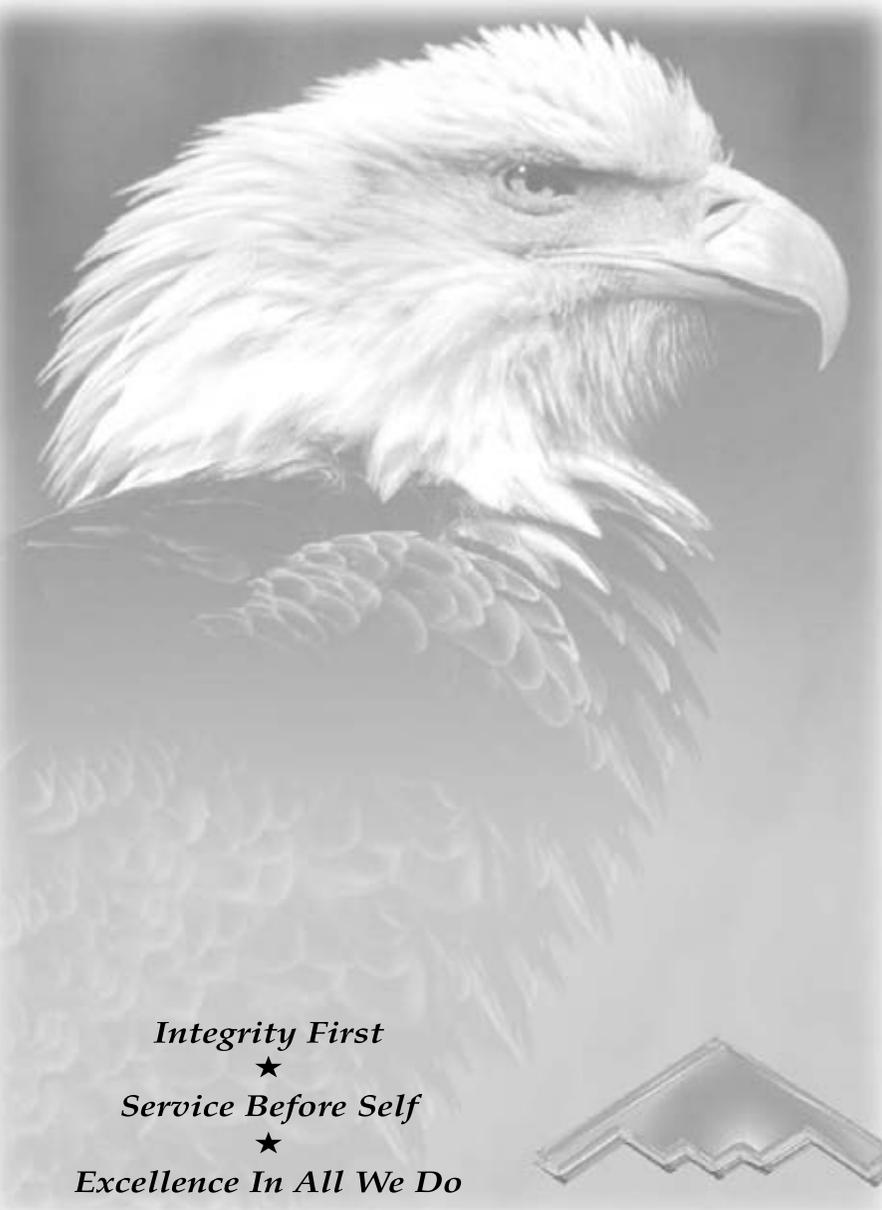
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