

WARRIOR

Year of the B-2

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August 23, 2013

***AF announces
PT changes
Pg. 3***

***Acting SecAF
visits with
Whiteman
Warriors
Pg. 4***

***Join the 509
Running Club!
Pg. 5***

Airman's Attic

Thrift store also open for business, Pg. 8

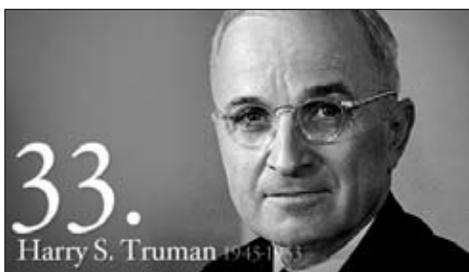


President Truman's leadership lessons inspire leaders today

By Col. Tracey Hayes
90th Missile Wing commander

F.E. WARREN AIR FORCE BASE, Wyo. -- Who is the leader you most admire? If you've never thought about it or no one has sparked your interest, I encourage you to start searching. It is said that history creates the best lessons. When examining leadership qualities and what makes a great leader, this is most certainly true.

The leader I most admire is unquestionably President Harry S. Truman. My interest in Truman started during my studies at the Joint Advanced Warfighting School. Since then, I've tried to read as much as I can about his leadership traits and why he made certain decisions during his presidency. I have visited



the Truman Library and Museum in Independence, Mo., and enjoyed it so much, I plan on visiting again. Truman's leadership lessons can be summed up as integrity and accountability, team building and humility.

Truman became president in 1945 following President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's death -- after a mere 82 days as the Vice President. Roosevelt kept Truman ill-informed,

and because of this, when Truman became president, he was ill-prepared. Despite his poor preparation, Truman's legacy would marvel historians and David McCullough would write an 1100 page book titled Truman, examining his presidency, a period marked by some of the toughest times in our nation's history. During his two terms, which included a surprise victory to win his second term over Thomas Dewey, Truman ordered the atomic bombs dropped on Japan, halted communists in Turkey and Greece, initiated the Marshall Plan, coordinated the Berlin Airlift with NATO, ordered desegregation of the armed forces, established the CIA and the Defense Department, committed U.S. forces

See Truman, page 6

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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On the cover

U.S. Air Force photo/
Airman 1st Class Keenan Berry
Brig. Gen. Thomas Bussiere, 509th Bomb Wing commander, and Tiffany Kalin, Whiteman Officers Spouses Club operations manager, cut the ribbon for the Airman's Attic grand opening at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Aug. 16, 2013. The Airman's Attic is open Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. To volunteer, call 660-687-3661.

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NEWS BRIEFS

DEERS update hours

The 509th Force Support Squadron military personnel section DEERS computers are being upgraded Aug. 26 and 27. During these two days, we will only have one computer available to accomplish DEERS transactions, including issuing common access cards and all other military IDs, resetting pins, and updating addresses or other personal information. You may expect a longer wait time during these days. We will be at full operation Aug. 28. For more information please call MPS customer service at 660-687-6425.

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.

Telephone news line set up for retirees

A toll-free telephone news line has been set up for retirees and surviving spouses who do not have computer access.

By calling 1-800-558-1404, retirees and spouses can stay informed using this new easy-to-use menu-driven service. Callers can select from several different topics that are compiled from various electronic news sources.

Topics include pay and annuity matters, medical and health care, and other benefits and entitlements.

CCAF GEM Program

Military members avoiding taking classes because of work shifts, deployments or other time constraints have a new program to assist them. Community College of the Air Force degree requirements can be met through distance learning using the CCAF General Education Mobile (GEM), a partnership between CCAF and other schools. For more information call (660) 687-2420.



WEATHER

Today	Saturday
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny
Hi 90	Hi 80
Lo 70	Lo 70
Sunday	Monday
Mostly Sunny	Sunny
Hi 92	Hi 92
Lo 72	Lo 73

Air Force announces PT test enhancements to start Oct. 1

By Staff Sgt. David Salanitri
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

Air Force senior leadership announced enhancements to the Air Force's Physical Fitness Assessment program, to be implemented Oct. 1.

In a letter to Airmen Aug. 20, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III explained the results of the comprehensive review, highlighting the strength of the program and the need for slight improvements.

"We have a tremendous program that has fundamentally changed the Air Force's overall fitness level over the past few years," Welsh said. "The PFT itself is not going to change. But even the best program can be improved upon, so we are making changes in four different areas to enhance the overall program."

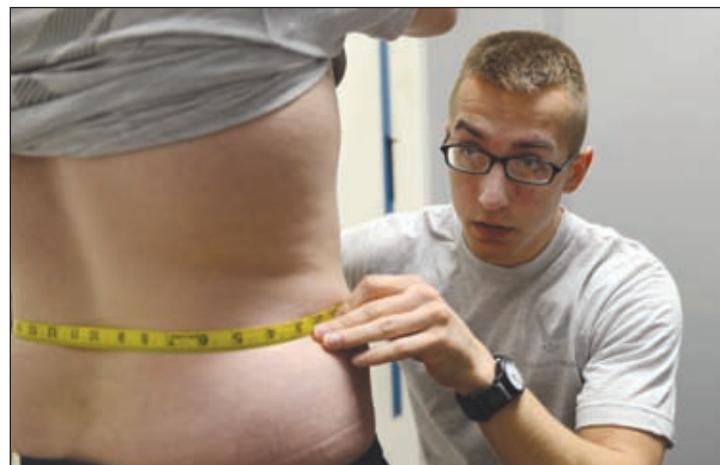
Of the changes coming Oct. 1, the most significant is to the abdominal circumference portion of the test. The AC assesses an Airman's body composition.

Since the Air Force implemented the newest fitness program guidelines in October 2010, only .03 percent of Airmen have failed the AC portion of the test and passed the other three components with a composite score of 75 or higher.

"In the future, if an Airman fails the AC portion of the test, and passes each of the other three components, we'll measure that Airman using the Body Mass Index taping guidance in DoD instructions," Welsh said. "If the Airman meets the DoD BMI standard, they pass the PFT."

Because AC measurement is integrated into the testing procedure, the Air Force is currently the only branch of the Department of Defense not required to have a separate weight management program.

The other program modifications include realigning the fitness appeal process back to wing commanders, adjusting passing stan-



U.S. Air Force file photo/Senior Airman Tabatha Zarrella
U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Schyler Turpin, Air Forces Central weapons of mass destruction target analyst, measures an Airman's waist during a physical training evaluation at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., Jan. 16, 2013.

dards for Airmen who can only test on one component of assessment, and changing and simplifying the walk test.

In addition to these efforts, senior leaders are reviewing how fitness performance is documented on performance reports as part of a larger effort to examine the performance report itself. Those results are expected in the near future.

Though senior leaders are looking to improve the current fitness program, Welsh said he is proud of the Air Force program, and the physically fit culture it has helped to cultivate.

"I believe we have DoD's best designed, best run fitness program, and as a result, we have a force ready for any mission our nation asks us to execute," he said. "I'm extremely proud of how far we've come with our fitness culture."

It's on! Cannon Range Open House scheduled for Sept. 7

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

The 131st Bomb Wing Detachment One-Cannon Range will be hosting an open house on Saturday, Sept. 7.

The event is free and will be open to the public 8 a.m. until 3 p.m., with the first aircraft presentation beginning at 9:15 a.m. For guest safety, gates will close 30 minutes prior to any aircraft flying on the range.

Gates open at 7 a.m., and in preparation for the first flight close at 9 a.m. After the initial flight, gates will reopen.

No traffic will be allowed past the gates during aircraft training flights.

Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, blankets and coolers. Cannon Range will be selling hotdogs and hamburgers as part of a fundraiser.

"Our Open House occurs every other year and provides an opportunity for the community to visit Cannon Range and witness firsthand how the Missouri Air National Guard provides training for various military aircrews," said Lt. Col. Michael Sadler, 131st BW Det. One commander. "Our goal is to improve public awareness and promote relations in the local community and throughout the region."
"Aircraft scheduled for this event con-



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

sist of B-2 Stealth from the 131st and 509th Bomb Wings at Whiteman, A10s and F16s," he said. "These aircraft regularly appear over the skies of south central Missouri performing bombing (training) missions on Cannon Range. This is a chance for the public to see how the Missouri Air National Guard plays a vital role in support of our Nation's defense."

To get to Cannon Range, check out the following directions:

Take Interstate 44, exit 153, Buckhorn Turn onto Hwy 17 South Drive approximately 13-14 miles Turn left at sign for Cannon Range Drive 1.8 miles and arrive at first gate Follow directions from the gate guard

For more information and questions about future activities at Cannon Range contact Master Sgt. Tracey Sargent at (314)-527-7297.

Acting SECAF visits Whiteman Warriors

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



Acting Secretary of the Air Force Eric Fanning visited Whiteman Air Force Base Aug. 15 to meet with Airmen and get an in-depth look at the B-2 Spirit stealth bomber mission.

Fanning first stopped at a B-2 dock to talk to the pilots, crew chiefs, specialists and weapons loaders responsible for making it such an effective weapons system.

“My first Air Force memory was seeing bombers during an airshow as a young boy,” said Fanning, “and I’ve wanted to see the B-2s since I started working in the Air Force.”

The secretary then visited several other offices around base before addressing Team Whiteman during an all-call that focused on several big-picture items, including the Air Force’s future in a financially constrained environment.

“There is no doubt the years ahead of us will be tough,” said Fanning. “We’ve been on the line for a while now between doing more with less and doing less with less. Regardless, nuclear deterrence will remain a top priority.”

He also took time to dispel several rumors, noting that permanent changes of station, promotions and accessions will not be halted. He then discussed sexual assault and told the crowd that each one of them needs to be a part of the solution.

“There are too many Airmen who don’t feel safe or secure, and we have to change that,” said Fanning.

He concluded by saying he is thankful for the support the Air Force provides the country.

“To see the amount of pride Airmen have in the mission is inspiring,” he said. “Thank you for persevering and serving even in these uncertain times.”

Acting Secretary of the Air Force Eric Fanning takes a tour of the B-2 Spirit during a visit with 509th Bomb Wing Airmen at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Aug. 15, 2013. During his visit, the secretary talked about topics such as the budget, sequestration and sexual assault.



Acting Secretary of the Air Force Eric Fanning speaks to more than 300 Airmen during his visit to Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Aug. 15, 2013. Fanning toured a B-2 Spirit, and experienced the B-2 and A-10 Thunderbolt simulators during his visit.



Acting Secretary of the Air Force Eric Fanning is briefed on the B-2 Spirit by U.S. Air Force Capt. Jonathon Roe, 393rd Bomb Squadron pilot, at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Aug. 15, 2013. He toured a B-2 and spoke to more than 300 Airmen about Air Force issues during his visit.



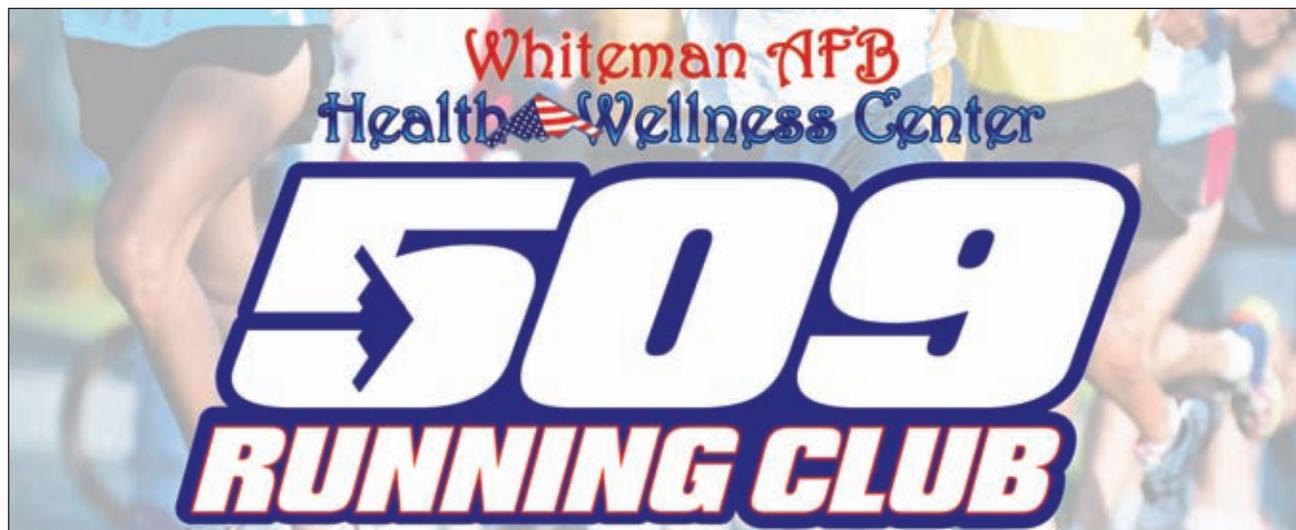
Acting Secretary of the Air Force Eric Fanning receives a briefing from U.S. Air Force Capt. Jonathon Roe, 393rd Bomb Squadron B-2 Spirit pilot, while visiting Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Aug. 15, 2013. Fanning also spoke with Service members during an all-call.



Acting Secretary of the Air Force Eric Fanning greets B-2 Spirit pilots, maintainers and crew chiefs at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Aug. 15, 2013. During his visit, Fanning talked about important Air Force topics such as the budget, sequestration and sexual assault.

Join the 509 Running Club: Time off for miles run

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



Whiteman runners of all skill levels can now sign up for a program that rewards their running with time off.

The "509 Running Club" rewards any 509th Bomb Wing Airman who runs 509 miles in a 12-month time span with a three-day pass. Alternatively, those daunted by running a distance roughly equaling the miles between Kansas City and Indianapolis can instead choose to run 509 kilometers (roughly 316 miles) to earn a one-day pass.

"Running has an obvious and direct connection to Air Force fitness," said Brian Kirby, health promotion director for the Whiteman Health and Wellness Center. "With this program, we hope to highlight and emphasize even more how important running is. Time off for miles ran? It's a great program!"

Participants must have their distance recording device approved by a HAWC member before starting, and it can be anything from a pedometer to a GPS watch.

Even after initially signing up, Airmen who started working toward the one-day pass realize they are on track to run the full 509 miles have a one-time chance to upgrade and work toward the three-day pass.

As many avid runners may find it easy to complete the program, Kirby said the program is geared toward a different group of people.

"We really want this to be an incentive for Airmen who run occasionally but who don't think of themselves as 'runners,'" Kirby said. "By simply setting a goal and committing to running a few miles a week, they can reach 509 kilometers or miles."

The math boils down to running about six miles a week for the one-day pass, or about 9.75 miles a week for the

Active-duty Airmen from the 509th Bomb Wing can earn a three-day pass for logging 509 miles within a 12-month time period. Alternatively, they can choose to run 509 kilometers (roughly 316 miles) to earn a one-day pass. The purpose of the program is to emphasize the importance of running in the Air Force physical fitness program.

three-day pass.

Kirby added that Airmen who think that mileage is a lofty goal can get in touch with the HAWC's exercise physiologist, Angela Anderson. She provides a monthly Running Clinic to "educate and assist individuals in all skills to run safer, farther and faster," said Kirby.

So far, seeing such an attainable goal has been motivational for some of the runners.

"Having this program is well worth the effort for people who already run," U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Tyler Olcott, a 509th Maintenance Group weapons loader who has already logged more than 140 miles. "It gives runners a goal and is something to work toward."

Runners must stop by the HAWC monthly to log their miles, and the program may only be completed once per year. For more information, call the HAWC at (660) 687-7662.

The 509 Running Club is part of the broader Leadership Pathways program, which also gives Airmen the chance to earn time off for attending classes that help develop their skills as they advise, supervisor, mentor and teach. Spouses and family members of active-duty members may also participate to earn commissary gift cards. Keep an eye out for the Sept. 6 edition of the Whiteman Warrior to learn more about the Leadership Pathways program!

Contributed graphic

July's Top III MVP award winner



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Keenan Berry
Samantha Melby, left, and Callie Hicks, are presented with the Whiteman Top Three award at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Aug 15, 2013. Samantha, wife of Tech. Sgt. Peter Melby from the 442nd Maintenance Squadron, was recognized for her involvement in her church, community, a band and honor society. Callie, wife of Senior Airman Spenser Hicks from the 509th Civil Engineer Squadron, was recognized for maintaining a 4.0 GPA while studying to get her bachelor's degree in dietetics.

Planning for extreme sports

Air Force Safety Center
2013 Critical Days of Summer

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. — Extreme sports such as bungee jumping, parasailing and sky diving have become more popular among Airmen in recent years.

For many Airmen, the lure of extreme sports correlates to some of the same reasons for joining the Air Force. The common personality traits include spontaneity, excitement-seeking, and risk-taking.

Some of us need to get a little adrenaline pumping every now and again and the thrill of many of these activities fulfills that need. They are called extreme for a reason and must be approached with an abundance of caution and risk management techniques.

As you begin to plan for your extreme sport adventure, be sure to consider how well you know yourself and your limitations. Overcoming personal challenges can be empowering but should not be done at the expense of your health and wellbeing.

Next, make sure the equipment you are using is properly cared for and properly used. Seek professional training when trying an extreme sport for the first time. If you take equipment out of storage after a long period of disuse, check it for wear and tear, be sure to perform any necessary maintenance, and do not hesitate to replace older equipment.

The final consideration should be the checklists that can be found in the Air Force's High Risk Activity Program in Air Force Instruction 91-202, "Air Force Mishap Prevention Program." It is available at www.e-publishing.af.mil.



While this is not a mandatory program, it is recommended as one of your overall risk management techniques.

Examples of high-risk activity include: all-terrain vehicle use, auto racing, back-country skiing or snowshoeing, boating, bungee jumping, civil helicopter flying, civil light aircraft flying, dirt biking, experimental aircraft flying, hot air ballooning, hunting, jet skiing, personal water craft, and kayaking or canoeing.
Some more are motorcycle racing, mountain climbing, rappelling, parasailing, rodeo activities, scuba diving, ski jumping (snow), sky diving, snowmobiling, soaring, ultra-light aircraft or powered parachute, and white water rafting.

For more information, call the 509th Bomb Wing Safety Office at (660) 687-7233.

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Truman Continued from Page 2

to Korea and upheld the principle of civilian control over the military by firing Army Gen. Douglas MacArthur. Through all these events, the leader of the free world taught the American people about leadership.

One of Truman's most widely acclaimed quotes was, "The buck stops here." This saying was on a placard that he kept on his desk in the Oval Office. The saying "the buck stops here" derives from the slang expression "pass the buck" which means passing the responsibility on to someone else. Avoiding this leadership pitfall, Truman's presidency was defined by accountability and integrity, accepting full responsibility for the success and failure of his decisions -- most notably his decision to drop the atomic bombs on Japan to end World War II.

In his farewell address to the American people given in January 1953, Truman referred to this concept very specifically, asserting that, "The president -- whoever he is -- has to decide. He can't pass the buck to anybody. No one else can do the deciding for him. That's his job." How many times have you had to make a tough decision then stand by that decision as you endured the consequences? If you have never been in that situation, how would you handle the stress?

Truman enlisted in the Missouri National Guard to serve in World War I. Army Capt. Truman was the Battery D Commander of the 129 Field Artillery Regiment. He was highly admired by the nearly two hundred men of Battery D primarily due to the team he built, which was grounded upon mutual respect, character and humility. These professional

qualities kindled lifelong friendships and contributed to success in combat. His motto for his team building approach to leadership was, "It's amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit." Think about the leaders you've witnessed during your military career. If those leaders are building a strong team, rarely will one hear the words: "I, me, mine," but rather, "us, we, our."

After he left the presidency, Truman was close to destitute. For some time he only received his Army pension of just over \$120 per month. He turned down many commercial offers that could have made him a very rich man by capitalizing on the office of the presidency. He declined these offers using the following reason: "You don't want me. You want the office of the president, and that doesn't belong to me. It belongs to the American people and it's not for sale." Truman defined humility as the ability to "make a right estimate of oneself." Through all the turmoil he endured during his presidency, he never once forgot where he was from or overestimated his capabilities. Rather, he remained a simple man trying to do the right thing in a complex world.

There are so many lessons from Truman as evidenced by the book Truman, but this article is to serve as a motivator to perhaps increase your curiosity. It's never too late to find that leader and glean important leadership lessons from their experiences. Find someone who inspires you and then go learn from their mistakes and successes, this will make you a better leader and strengthen our Air Force.

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Airman's Attic, Thrift Store hold grand re-opening

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

Whiteman Air Force Base's Airman's Attic and Thrift Store re-opened last week after being closed during the summer.

The Airman's Attic is open to staff sergeants and below, as well as their dependents, and offers a variety of everyday goods for free, including uniforms and other household items.

"Our goal is to help these Airmen get items they need, free of cost," said Tiffany Kalin, Airman's Attic volunteer in charge. "We run strictly off of donations and a small amount of funding from the Whiteman 'Top 3' group."

The Airman's Attic offers items such as baby strollers, chairs, clothes, shoes, toys, kitchen wares and military clothing. They will accept donations from anyone with base access as long as the items are serviceable.

"We accept nearly every donation we can get," Kalin said. "If we feel like an Airman or his or her family can use it, we will display it. Both the Airman's Attic and Thrift Store are run strictly by volunteers. If you would like to volunteer you can come by one of our buildings and fill out a simple application form. There is always room for extra volunteers so we will take

'Both the Airman's Attic and Thrift Store are run strictly by volunteers. If you would like to volunteer you can come by one of our buildings and fill out a simple application form. There is always room for extra volunteers so we will take all the help we can get. We put an emphasis on enjoying our volunteer time here while also getting the work done and helping the Team Whiteman community.'

all the help we can get. We put an emphasis on enjoying our volunteer time here while also getting the work done and helping the Team Whiteman community."

All the volunteers at the Airman's Attic are spouses who work approximately 10 to 12 hours a week.

"Currently we have about eight regular volunteers and two who volunteer part-time," Kalin said.

She added they are also looking for active-duty Airmen who would like to volunteer for one night during the week.

The Airman's Attic also features the Cinderella Closet, a room with approximately 250 semi-formal and formal dresses.

"These dresses are completely free to be checked out to any active-duty dependent or Airman," Kalin said. "There is no regulation on what type of event it has to be for, and the only stipulation is they have to get the dress dry-cleaned before returning it."

The Thrift Store also offers items for members on base, and is open to all base personnel, regardless of rank. The items are sold at discounted prices, and anyone on base can donate goods, as well.

"The Thrift Store also runs mostly off donated items," said Julie Melendez, Whiteman Officers' Spouses Club chairwoman

and Thrift Store volunteer. "The money generated from the store goes directly to the base's spouses clubs based on the hours each club volunteered, and it goes toward charities and scholarships."

"People that would like to do consignments can bring in items to be displayed for sale on our floor for up to 90 days," Melendez said. "When these items are purchased, the Thrift Store receives 25 percent of the profit and the individual will receive the other 75 percent."

Items offered by the Thrift Store are similar to the Airman's Attic and include furniture, clothing, kitchen ware, décor, baby items, jewelry, books and videos.

Donations can be brought to the storage sheds behind either of the venues. The Airman's Attic is located next to the post office, while the Thrift Store is located in the same building as the Airman and Family Readiness Center. Both buildings are on Arnold Avenue next to the commissary.

The Airman's Attic and Thrift Store are open Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m.

Follow the Airman's Attic and Thrift Store on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/Whiteman-AFB-Airmans-Attic and www.facebook.com/pages/Whiteman-AFB-Thrift-Store for updates and information on special events.



U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Keenan Berry
Barbara Barr, Whiteman Enlisted Spouses Club, left, Melissa Aaserude, Thrift Store volunteer, Brig. Gen. Thomas Bussiere, 509th Bomb Wing commander, and Julie Melendez, Whiteman Officers Spouses Club chairwoman, cut the ribbon for the Whiteman Thrift Store grand opening at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Aug. 16, 2013. The Thrift Store is open Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. To volunteer, contact the Thrift Store at 660-563-3910.

DOD announces same-sex spouse benefits

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- Today, the Department of Defense announced its plan to extend benefits to same-sex spouses of uniformed service members and Department of Defense civilian employees, according to a DOD news release issued today.

After a review of the department's benefit policies following the Supreme Court's ruling that Section Three of the Defense of Marriage Act is unconstitutional, and in consultation with the Department of Justice and other executive branch agencies, the Defense Department will make spousal and family benefits available no later than Sept. 3, 2013, regardless of sexual orientation, as long as service member-sponsors provide a valid marriage certificate.

The DOD remains committed to ensuring that all men and women who serve in the U.S. military, and their families, are treated fairly and equally as the law directs.

Entitlements such as TRICARE enrollment, basic allowance for housing and family separation allowance are retroactive to the date of the Supreme Court's decision. Any

claims to entitlements before that date will not be granted. For those members married after June 26, 2013, entitlements begin at the date of marriage.

The DOD recognizes that same-sex military couples who are not stationed in a jurisdiction that permits same-sex marriage would have to travel to another jurisdiction to marry. That is why the department will implement policies to allow military personnel in such a relationship non-chargeable leave for the purpose of travelling to a jurisdiction where such a marriage may occur. This will provide accelerated access to the full range of benefits offered to married military couples throughout the department, and help level the playing field between opposite-sex and same-sex couples seeking to be married.

For civilian benefits administered government-wide to federal employees, the DOD will follow the Office of Personnel Management and the Department of Labor's guidance to ensure that the same benefits currently available to heterosexual spouses are also available to legally married same-sex spouses.

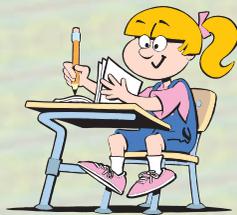
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Lifeworks Events!

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Aug. 23

Lifelong Learning, 11 a.m.
Whiteman Homeschool Group



Aug. 28

Playgroup, 10 a.m.



Aug. 31

Recycled keychains, 2 p.m.
Making fun keychains out of old credit cards

Sept. 7

BBC Annual Block Party, 11 a.m.
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Airmen enjoy Atomic Luau



Airmen from the 509th Bomb Wing enjoy a game of football at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Aug. 16, 2013. Airmen took advantage of the opportunity to relax and enjoy themselves.



An Airman from the 509th Bomb Wing rides a mechanical bull at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Aug 16, 2013. The Atomic Luau featured several events and attractions for everyone to enjoy, including live music, bounce castles, dunk tanks and games.



The Penny Moon Band performs during the Atomic Luau at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Aug. 16, 2013. The band's performance was part of the day-long event to increase the morale of Airmen at Whiteman.



An Airman from the 509th Bomb Wing dunks a friend during the Atomic Luau at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Aug. 16, 2013. This activity was planned by Airmen and designed to relieve stress and provide a fun afternoon for Airmen and their families.



Airmen from the 509th Bomb Wing play volleyball at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Aug. 16, 2013. The Atomic Luau was an exciting event for Airmen, friends and family to enjoy games, music and food.



Airmen from the 509th Bomb Wing play cornhole at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Aug. 16, 2013. During the Atomic Luau, Airmen built and enhanced friendships by engaging in team-building games such as football and volleyball.



The "Group of the Defenders of Family and Homeland" dance during the Atomic Luau at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Aug. 16, 2013. The Atomic Luau occurs once a year and is a day-long celebration including fun, food, games and prizes.

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

Controllers keep combat sorties cruising



U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Bahja J. Jones

Tech. Sgt. Thomas Miller clears an aircraft for takeoff as Senior Airman Kevin Krippner surveys the flightline at the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing in Southwest Asia, Aug. 13, 2013. Miller is the 379th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron air traffic control watch supervisor deployed from Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., and hails from Olathe, Kan. Krippner is a 379th EOSS air traffic controller deployed from Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., and a Winchester, Va., native.

By Senior Airman Bahja J. Jones
379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA -- With the busiest airfield in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility for joint and coalition forces, the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing depends on a team of skilled air traffic controllers to ensure safe, smooth airfield operations.

"The main priority of an air traffic controller here is to separate and sequence aircraft, and try to keep operations as safe as possible," said Tech. Sgt. Thomas Miller, the 379th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron air traffic control watch supervisor deployed from Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., and an Olathe, Kan., native. "It's a lot like being a controller back home, except the operations tempo is faster and things tend to change more frequently."

When operating at home station, missions are typically on a more regular schedule, but here, controllers have to be more prepared for air tasking order changes, Miller explained. They have to be able to adapt and make sure aircraft land and take off on time.

Controllers here are essential to not only operations at the 379th AEW, but every deployed location in Southwest Asia. Aircraft here support missions including aeromedical evacuations, air drops for troops in forward operating bases, transporting passengers between FOBs and providing overwatch for troops on the ground.

"If we aren't on top of things and an aircraft 'slips,' or misses an air tasking order mission, it can affect things you don't want to think about," he said. "There may be someone waiting on special equipment, or potentially headed home to their families who are dependent on us getting the aircraft off the ground safe and on-time. Every aircraft in and out of here has a purpose and could potentially have a mission

downrange." While they typically try to keep air traffic operations on a first come, first serve basis, Miller said, sometime mission parameters change and that practice doesn't always work.

"If an aircraft needs to get off the ground first to 'drop bombs on targets,' we have to be able to change [the departure order] on the fly," he said.

The air traffic control tower is manned 24/7 due to the continuous, high-volume operations here at the 379th AEW. Upon arrival to the wing, the controllers have five days from the time they arrive to be fully ready to support the mission here.

"Stateside, the expectation for someone to be fully trained on operating at a new tower is anywhere from six months to a year," said Miller. "We bring in controllers with different backgrounds, experiences and training, and they perform their functions well."

Controllers here not only govern air traffic for Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine assets, but they also support the host nation flying assets as well.

"We work directly with the local controllers just like we would with any other Air Force personnel," Miller said. "As a top-line supervisor, I have to be able to oversee them and provide corrections as necessary, while practicing the proper customs and courtesies of the host nation."

Air traffic controllers here are always ready to guide and govern aircraft and are essential to successful operations in the CENTCOM AOR.

"We have a fantastic team, who do a very important job," said Capt. Jason Matheny, the 379th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron ATC flight commander, deployed from Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., and originally from Biloxi, Miss. "They seamlessly manage one of our most valuable assets -- the airfield."

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- Free ads are for one-time sale of personal items only. Free ads can't be placed for churches, groups, clubs, organizations or friends not affiliated with the military. Each item must be sold for \$150 or less.
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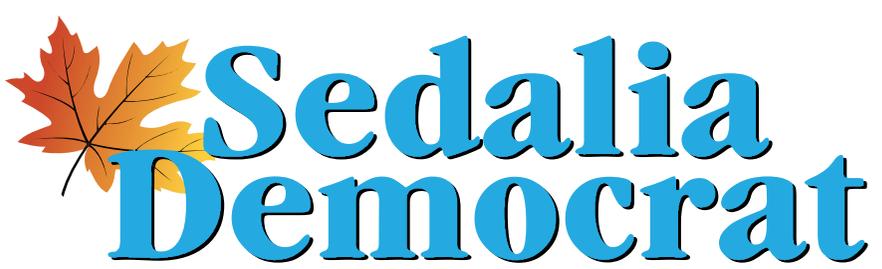
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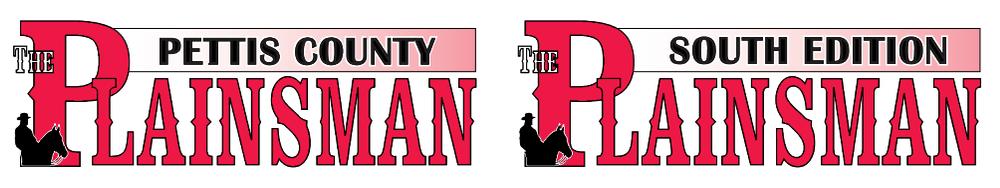
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